REPORT:

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
7 July 1853.

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REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX, AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
7 *July* 1853.

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Martis, 7° die Decembris, 1852.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Expediency of Distributing Gratis, under certain Regulations, a Selection from the Reports and Returns printed by Order of The House of Commons, amongst the Literary and Scientific Institutions and Mechanics' Institutes throughout the United Kingdom; and to inquire whether any Alteration should be made in the Mode in which such Documents are Sold, to make them more accessible to the Community.

Martis, 14° *die Decembris*, 1853.

Committee nominated of,—

Mr. Tufnell.
Mr. Ewart.
Mr. Cumming Bruce.
Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. Brotherton.
Sir Robert Harry Inglis.
Mr. Drummond.
Mr. Headlam.
Mr. Walter.
Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Monckton Milnes.
Colonel Mure.
Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Byng.
Mr. Mitchell.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Jovis, 7° die Julii, 1853.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to report their Observations, with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed "to inquire into the expediency of Distributing Gratis, under certain Regulations, a Selection from the Reports and Returns printed by Order of The House of Commons, amongst the Literary and Scientific Institutions and Mechanics' Institutes throughout the United Kingdom; and to inquire whether any Alteration should be made in the Mode in which such Documents are Sold, to make them more accessible to the Community;" and who were empowered to report their Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House;——HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:

IN discharge of the duty entrusted to them, Your Committee have in the first place endeavoured to ascertain whether there existed any general desire on the part of Mechanics' Institutions and similar establishments to obtain the Papers published by Parliament. For this purpose they have examined witnesses from various parts of the United Kingdom, whose habits and occupations bring them into frequent communication with these Institutions, and who are therefore well qualified to form an opinion, not only as to the feeling prevailing on this subject, but also as to the general condition of these societies, and their means of making Parliamentary Papers serviceable to the public.

The witnesses summoned by Your Committee were selected from the metropolis, from the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire, from the West of England, and from * Ireland and † Scotland. However much these witnesses differed on other topics, such as the priority of claim of different institutions in the same locality, and the best means of selecting and distributing Parliamentary documents, on this point they are uniformly agreed, that great advantage would accrue from a general diffusion of the most interesting and instructive Parliamentary Papers by dispelling ignorance, correcting misrepresentations, and enabling the mass of the people to form for themselves a just opinion upon subjects of legislation, and other important questions of the day. Your Committee think that the evils arising from ignorance on such matters are of frequent and extensive occurrence. Numerous examples of them are cited in the evidence of Dr. Lyon Playfair. Q. 1580–81.

That there exists a general desire to obtain these documents, appears not only from the evidence of the witnesses, but from the numerous petitions presented to The House, and referred to Your Committee. The number of these petitions, according to the latest Report from the Select Committee on Petitions, is 272, bearing 15,284 signatures. The first time any general expression of opinion was manifested on this subject occurred at the conference of delegates from different Institutions, held at the office of the Society of Arts in May 1852. A unanimous resolution was subsequently passed at a meeting of the Yorkshire Union

* *See* the Evidence of Mr. Leslie, particularly Q. 1140 *et seq.*, 1210 *et seq.*

† *See* the Evidence of Sir A. Alison, bart.; difficulty of obtaining access to Parliamentary documents, Q. 1000 *et seq.*; anxiety for Papers expressed in different towns in Scotland, Q. 1023 *et seq.*; examination of a subject by question and answer particularly interesting, Q. 1028.

Union of Mechanics' Institutions, to the effect that a Petition should be presented to the House of Commons for a distribution of Parliamentary Papers.

Baines' evidence, Q. 129. Q. 158.

Mr. Baines, the able and zealous President of the Union, has stated before Your Committee that in his opinion the communication of Parliamentary Papers would elevate the character of the Institutions; check the spread of vulgar errors and prejudices; and stimulate thought and inquiry.

Q. 353.

Another competent witness, Dr. Booth, quotes a letter on this subject, addressed to him by the Mechanics' Institution at Shrewsbury:—

"The distribution would do good, for many of the young men who join our institution and attend our reading-room look at the proceedings in Parliament merely as the proceedings of perhaps the largest debating society in the kingdom; they read the newspapers, and derive from the debates their views of party and local politics, but they are quite ignorant of the vast amount of work that is done and facts which are accumulated and arranged on subjects of the greatest interest in the Committee-rooms of the Houses of Parliament; and therefore, independently of all other considerations, it appears to me, that by a judicious selection and distribution of Parliamentary Papers amongst the Institutions, we shall enable our less educated members to have a more intelligent appreciation, not only of the subjects treated of in the papers themselves, but also of the labour performed by the Legislature, in addition to the ordinary duty of attending the debates, of which many persons are at present ignorant."

"I think," adds Dr. Booth, "on public grounds, the country should know what is done in Parliament; that as Parliament has thrown open to the public what is said in Parliament, it ought also to give the means of access to know what is done in Parliament."

Q. 244.

Your Committee beg to call attention to the evidence of Mr. H. Chester, who as "Chairman of the Institute Committee of the Society of Arts," has had more than ordinary means of forming a competent opinion on the subject; Mr. Chester recommends the distribution of a selection of Parliamentary Papers "rather for the promotion of the public interest than for the benefit of the Institutions themselves. "I do not wish," he says, "to have them made privileged bodies, but I conceive that it would facilitate legislation, and promote the public interest, if Parliamentary documents on important public subjects could be systematically distributed throughout the country, and it seems to me that these Institutions are bodies to which they might with the greatest advantage be sent."

Q. 252–9. Q. 15. Q. 408.

The same witness reports the great interest that is evinced by the public in the Reports of the Committee of Privy Council on Education. Copies of these Reports are now sent to all the Institutions in union with the Society of Arts, and to the Yorkshire Union. As many as 10,000 copies of these documents have sometimes been given away. It appears from the evidence of Mr. Solly, that the Reports of the Board of Health, of the Department of Practical Art, and of the Government School of Mines, are also now distributed in a similar manner. Although a considerable portion of the reports may be, at first, neglected or wasted, Your Committee feel confident from the evidence before them that year by year the proportion of the information turned to profit will be considerably augmented, and the attention of the intelligent members of the Institutions more and more attracted to subjects of social and public interest, when thus laid before them in the most authentic form, and derived from the best sources.

Q. 612 *et seq.*

From the evidence of Dr. Hudson, it would appear that in the Institutions with which he has been connected no interest has been hitherto manifested in these Reports, but Your Committee are inclined to attribute this indifference to the defective manner in which they have been placed before the members. A miscellaneous mass, collected without care, and thrown together without arrangement, has been sent in many cases long after the interest of the subjects upon which they treated had passed away. Dr. Booth, in his evidence with reference to this subject, states, "Persons in the country have very erroneous ideas as to the nature of Parliamentary Reports; they have always been in the habit of getting rubbish; all the good ones have been selected, and the useless ones have been sent down to them as gifts; and these Papers are worthless, not on account of the subjects themselves, but owing to the length of time that has elapsed since the subject was treated."

Q. 355.

Your

Your Committee are therefore of opinion, that an earnest desire to obtain Parliamentary Papers exists on the part of numbers of popular Literary Institutions, and that a judicious distribution of these papers, in accordance with well-considered regulation, might be advantageously sanctioned by The House.

Great care, however, should be bestowed upon the selection. An indiscriminate mass of Reports would be of little or no value, and their bulk would soon cause them to be regarded as an incumbrance. The same selection, however, would not be adapted to all localities. Subjects interesting in an agricultural district, might be entirely neglected in one devoted to manufactures; and the Reports that would specially interest a maritime town might be little appreciated in an inland district. Your Committee, therefore, consider it essential that, in any distribution of these documents, the particular wants of each locality should be considered, and that no Reports, except those of universal interest, should be sent to all Institutions.

Your Committee recommend, however, an exception to this rule with respect to Free Public Libraries. Whilst touching upon this point, they cannot refrain from expressing their gratification at the success which has attended the establishment of Free Libraries in the city of Manchester, and other places, under the provisions of Mr. Ewart's Act. Mr. Edwards, the intelligent Librarian at Manchester, speaks in strong terms of the effect produced by the access thus given to literary information in improving the habits and refining the taste of the surrounding population. Mr. Edwards remarks: "The proportion of lighter literature, as compared with the proportion of volumes in the other departments, is not increasing, but decreasing; the experience of the last month, as at the first, is an increase in the demand for the most important works in history and a diminution in the demand for the ordinary kind of fiction." Similar success appears to have attended the formation of Free Libraries at Warrington, Salford, Bolton and Liverpool. Wherever Free Libraries are established, Your Committee recommend that, upon application from the managing body, the Parliamentary Papers should thereupon be sent to them, free of all charge, immediately upon publication.

Q. 775 *et seq.*

Q. 936.

Bristol, Hull, Oxford, &c. Q. 958.

Your Committee have been confirmed in the opinion they have expressed of the advantage of diffusing such documents, by the practice in this respect of the United States Government. They beg to call the attention of The House to the evidence of Mr. Henry Stevens, literary agent to the Smithsonian Institution in America.

The publication and distribution of Papers by the State Legislatures appear to be conducted on a similar scale of liberality with that of Congress. The Legislature of New York has lately published for general distribution an elaborate Natural History of that State, a copy of which may be seen in the Library of the House of Commons, and it appears that similar proceedings are usual amongst the State Legislatures.

Q. 2006 *et seq.*

In conclusion, the whole of the evidence received has led Your Committee to form a sanguine expectation of the beneficial results to be derived from a liberal distribution of the stores of information annually collected by Parliament.

The expense thus entailed would probably be inconsiderable in comparison with the good effected by it. From the evidence of Mr. Hansard, it appears that the cost of 250 extra copies of two-thirds of the documents printed by Parliament, (taking the Session of 1852 as a guide) would be only £.1,000. Your Committee doubt whether any economical scruples can be fairly urged against making the experiment they have suggested.

At the same time, Your Committee recommend that the distribution of Papers should at first be conducted on a moderate scale, and that the supply should, if anything, fall short of the demand, and the result be tested before a larger scale of distribution be attempted.

In order to carry this into effect, Your Committee recommend,—

1.—That a Select Committee of Five Members be appointed at the commencement of each Session, of which Two shall form a quorum; and that to this Committee all applications for Parliamentary Papers from free Libraries,

Mechanics' Institutions, or other public Institutions established for literary purposes be referred.

2.—That, on the receipt of any such application, the Committee shall direct an inquiry into the character of the Institution, the number of its members, the accommodation it can afford for Parliamentary documents, and enabling the public to consult them; and generally into any circumstances which, in the judgment of the Committee, may afford a guarantee that the books presented shall be carefully preserved, and rendered as accessible as possible to the public.

3.—That with this information before them the Committee report what Institutions are best entitled to receive the Parliamentary Papers, and select such Papers as they consider best adapted for distribution, regard being had to the particular interests of each locality, and that no more than one Institution in the same town or district, unless under particular circumstances, be entitled to the privilege; that on such Report being agreed to by The House, the Printing Committee make arrangements as to the additional number of copies which may be required.

4.—That the Committee be empowered to forward the Reports and Papers selected for distribution, free of postage, to the several Institutions, and to impose such conditions as in each particular case they may think fit for their due preservation, and for facility of public access to them.

5.—That each volume so distributed bear a stamp, stating that it is to be preserved in the Institution.

6.—That an annual Report of the proceedings of the Committee be laid before The House.

7 *July* 1853.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Jovis, 16° *die Decembris*, 1852.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Tufnell,	Colonel Mure.
Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Walter.	Mr. William Michell.
Mr. Drummond.	Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Byng.

Mr. Tufnell was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated on their course of proceeding.

[Adjourned.

Jovis, 17° *die Februarii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Tufnell, in the Chair.

Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. W. Michell.
Mr. Byng.	Mr. Cumming Bruce.
Colonel Mure.	Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. Drummond.	Mr. Headlam.
Mr. Hutt.	Mr. Walter.

Mr. *Edward Solly*, examined.

Mr. *Edward Baines*, examined.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at One o'clock.

Lunæ, 21° *die Februarii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Tufnell, in the Chair.

Sir R. H. Inglis.	Mr. Walter.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. W. Michell.	Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Byng.	Mr. Cumming Bruce.
Mr. Drummond.	Colonel Mure.

Mr. *Harry Chester*, examined.

Rev. *James Booth*, LL.D., examined.

[Adjourned till Monday next, 28th, at One o'clock.

Lunæ, 28° *die Februarii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. TUFNELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Michell.	Mr. Byng.
Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Fortescue.
Colonel Mure.	Mr. Walter.
Mr. Headlam.	Mr. Drummond.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Cumming Bruce.
Mr. Stirling.	

Mr. *Thomas Hogg*, examined.

Dr. *Hudson*, examined.

[Adjourned to Thursday, 3d March, at One o'clock.

Jovis, 3° *die Martii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. TUFNELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Byng.	Colonel Mure.
Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Michell.	Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Fortescue.

Mr. *E. Edwards*, examined.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at Half-past Twelve o'clock.

Lunæ, 7° *die Martii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. TUFNELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. H. Drummond.	Colonel Mure.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Michell.	Mr. Headlam.
Mr. Byng.	Mr. Cumming Bruce.

Sir *Archibald Alison*, examined.

Mr. *Leslie*, examined.

[Adjourned to Thursday, at Half-past Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 10° *die Martii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. TUFNELL, in the Chair.

Mr. William Michell.	Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Cumming Bruce.
Mr. Walter.	Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Stirling.	Mr. Headlam.
Colonel Mure.	

Mr. *S. Valentine* examined.

Mr. *R. Abbott*, examined.

Mr. *F. Warren*, examined.

[Adjourned till Monday, at Half-past Twelve o'clock.

Lunæ, 14° *die Martii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. TUFNELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Byng.	Mr. Michell.
Mr. Headlam.	Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Stirling.	

Mr. *J. C. Radford*, examined.

Dr. *Lyon Playfair*, examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday, April 7th, at One o'clock.

Jovis, 28° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. TUFNELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Monckton Milnes.	Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Cumming Bruce.
Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Headlam.
Mr. Fortescue.	

Mr. *T. Gordon*, examined.

Mr. *J. A. Mackay*, examined.

Mr. *Edward Morton*, examined.

[Adjourned.

Lunæ, 9° *die Maii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. TUFNELL, in the Chair.

Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Drummond.
Mr. Walter.	Mr. Michell.
Mr. Headlam.	Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Byng.	Mr. C. Fortescue.
Mr. Stirling.	Mr. Ewart.
Mr. Cumming Bruce.	Colonel Mure.

Mr. *Joseph Hume*, a Member of The House, examined.

Mr. *Solly*, examined.

Mr. *Stevens*, examined.

Mr. *Henry Hansard*, examined.

[Adjourned.

Jovis, 7° *die Julii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Michell.	Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Tufnell.
Mr. Fortescue.	M. Walter.
Mr. Monckton Milnes.	Mr. Headlam.
Mr. Drummond.	Colonel Mure.

Mr. HUTT, in the Chair.

Draft Report read, and considered. Several amendments made.

Question, "That this be the Report of the Committee," put, and agreed to.

Ordered to Report, together with the Minutes of Evidence.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME of WITNESS.	PROFESSION or CONDITION.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Discharge.	Total Number of Days in London.	Number of Days under Examination by Committee, or acting specially under their Orders.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	Expenses in London.	TOTAL Expenses Allowed to Witness.
						£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
J. W. Hudson - -	LL. D. - - -	26 Feb. -	28 Feb. -	2	1	4 10 -	2 2 -	6 12 -
Edward Edwards -	Librarian - -	2 March	3 March	2	1	6 - -	2 2 -	8 2 -
Archibald Alison -	Baronet - - -	7 March	8 March	2	1	10 10 -	2 2 -	12 12 -
I. C. Radford - -	Librarian - -	12 March	14 March	3	1	6 6 -	3 3 -	9 9 -
Thomas E. C. Leslie -	Barrister - -	7 March	8 March	2	1	7 13 -	6 6 -	13 19 -
							£.	50 14 -

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Jovis, 17° *die Februarii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Tufnell.	Mr. Cumming Bruce.
Mr. Byng.	Mr. Michell.
Mr. Headlam.	Colonel Mure.
Mr. Fortescue.	Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Walter.	Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Henry Drummond.	Mr. Monckton Milnes.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY TUFNELL, IN THE CHAIR.

Edward Solly, Esq., F.R.S., called in, and Examined.

E. Solly, Esq., F.R.S.

17 February 1853.

1. *Chairman.*] YOU are, I believe, the Secretary of the Society of Arts, which has offices in the Adelphi?—I am.

2. In that capacity, have you been brought into frequent communication with mechanics' institutes and literary institutions throughout the country?—To a very great extent.

3. In May last was there a conference held at the office of the Society of Arts, which was attended by delegates of different institutions throughout the country?—There was a meeting held there, which was attended by a very large number of representatives from the leading mechanics and literary and scientific institutions throughout the country.

4. In consequence of what took place at that meeting, were any steps adopted by those different institutions to render them more nearly connected and associated with the Society of Arts?—A union was in consequence formed, which has been joined by rather more than 250 of those institutions.

5. Do the institutions contribute to a fund for certain purposes?—There is a contribution paid by each institution of two guineas a year towards the funds of the Society of Arts.

6. In return for that, what do they obtain?—The object of that contribution was, in the first instance, to meet the expense of correspondence; but they have received, in the way of presents of books, apparatus, and so forth, far more in value than their subscription.

7. Did anything take place at that meeting of the Society of Arts respecting the distribution of Parliamentary Papers?—The subject was adverted to by several gentlemen present, and great interest was expressed upon the subject by the representatives of the institutions.

8. In consequence of what then passed, have you had many communications with different institutions upon the matter?—I have received many hundreds of letters upon the subject, and I may say that every one of those, or with only one exception, expresses great interest in the matter.

9. Can you state generally what are the views contained in those letters with regard to the mode in which they would wish the object to be carried into effect?—The views of the different institutions, as expressed in those letters, vary to a remarkable degree; they all coincide in the main point, that a great number of Papers printed by Parliament would be of extreme value; in many cases they

E. Solly, Esq., F.R.S.

17 February 1853.

would willingly pay a reasonable sum for receiving them, and in others they would not be ready to pay, in consequence of the smallness of their funds; but they all agree, as regards many of those Papers, in their wish to possess them.

10. Are there any particular subjects upon which, as far as you know, they wish to possess Parliamentary Reports?—Papers upon certain general subjects seem to be desired by all the institutions; Returns relating to emigration; Returns relating to railway statistics and management, and subjects of general interest, are desired by all the institutions throughout the country. Then again, there are Papers upon local matters which are particularly interesting to some towns; for instance, Reports relating to machinery, which are valuable at Sheffield and Birmingham, and others upon agricultural matters, would be particularly valuable at Norwich and large centres of agricultural districts. It is hardly possible to lay down general rules on the subject, without classifying the whole country.

11. In your opinion, supposing it were determined to make a distribution of those Parliamentary Reports, with whom do you think the selection had better rest; do you think that the selection had better be made by the institutions themselves, or by a Committee of the House, who should select Papers, at any rate in the first instance, which in their opinion would be most advantageous for the institutions?—If the selection were left to the committees of local institutions, as at present constituted, their extreme ignorance of the nature of those publications would interfere with their making a good selection; on the other hand, if it were left entirely to a Committee of the House, sitting in London, it would be perhaps difficult and troublesome for them to apportion the distribution of the Reports in the most advantageous manner; the result, therefore, of thought, and much correspondence upon the subject, would be in favour of a double system of distribution, a small number of Reports being sent direct to every institution that was judged worthy to receive them, whilst it should be left to each institution to apply specially for other Reports which they might desire to possess.

12. Do you think that many of the institutions would object to paying for the carriage of those Reports?—I think if an unlimited number were sent to them without their asking for them, and they had to pay for them, it would press severely on the finances of many institutions; but if any arrangement were adopted like that which I have mentioned of double distribution, I think those Reports that were sent by order of The House, or a Committee, should be sent free, whilst those which the institutions might specially apply for, they should be called upon to pay the postage of.

13. Institutions of any consequence, I suppose, have some corresponding bookseller in London?—Most of them have, and, in sending parcels from the Society of Arts, I have, to a certain extent, sent them through the booksellers; but I found this practical difficulty, the booksellers were not willing to receive the parcels unless a certain sum were paid for booking, which in many cases amounted to as much, or even more, than the cost of sending a Parliamentary Paper by the post.

14. Are not booksellers in the habit of sending periodically parcels to different towns?—Certainly, but they decline to receive any parcels free; therefore the expense must either be borne by the person sending the book, or by the institution receiving it.

15. I believe Reports of the Board of Health, the Department of Practical Art, the Government School of Mines, and Reports of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education, are distributed to different Societies?—Nearly 20,000 volumes have been distributed through the medium of the Society of Arts in the last six months to different institutions, including many of the publications of those departments.

16. How many institutions have availed themselves of that privilege?—Two hundred and fifty-two. I should state that a large number of institutions which have not joined the union of which I spoke, have entered into friendly correspondence with us.

17. You have only distributed to those institutions which are in union with the Society?—Exactly.

18. In what way are those publications sent through booksellers; you said you found some practical difficulty in sending them; have you adopted any other course

course in consequence?—I have generally sent them by the railways; those which were sent by the departments of the Government, were sent by post in the usual way.

19. Gratis?—Yes.

20. So that the institutions have paid nothing for those publications?—No, they have not paid anything; the last book that we sent was the Juries' Reports, of which a number of copies were placed at the disposal of the Society of Arts by the Royal Commissioners; those, of course, were sent by railway.

21. Suppose it should be decided to distribute a certain selection of Reports, but at the same time on the condition that no expense should be incurred by the public in the transmission of those Reports, what course would you suggest?—If the number of Reports sent was not large, and it would probably be well to send but a few at first, I should imagine that the post would be the most convenient way to send them.

22. You are aware that Reports generally come out together at the end of the Session of Parliament; therefore, would it not be more economical if they came out together to send them as a parcel by railway than by post?—That might probably be the case; but my impression is, that if large parcels of books were sent to these institutions, they would not receive so much attention as if single Reports were sent now and then; they would be apt to be set aside as a large number of books, and would be very liable to be neglected.

23. You are aware of the postage that is paid upon Parliamentary Papers?—Yes, I think no institution anxious to receive these Reports would object to pay the Parliamentary postage upon a selection of them.

24. Have most of those institutions any rooms in which those books could be placed, and could be easily accommodated?—Almost every one of them has a library, or reading-room, connected with it.

25. Which could receive an additional number of volumes to those which they purchase with their own means?—In some cases institutions object to the reception of many Parliamentary Reports, upon the ground of the space which they would occupy, and the small accommodation which they possess.

26. Do not you think that it would be desirable, before any decision were come to upon the subject, that it should be ascertained, with reference to each institution, what accommodation they could afford?—I have written letters to every institution within the last few months, asking that question, and I have replies at the present time from 350, and in almost every case they express their willingness to receive and give shelf-room to such Reports; it is only in one or two instances that they complain of the smallness of their premises.

27. Do you speak now of the institutions in union with you?—No; I speak of the whole of the institutions.

28. In those institutions is the library a great point of attraction?—I think the value of libraries is increasing from day to day; hitherto, perhaps, the lecture-room has been the most attractive feature; but the library is increasing in value every year.

29. Do you think that the Reports of the House of Commons upon matters of general interest would attract attention in those libraries?—My belief is, that at first they would excite interest with only a small number of members; but I believe that the possession of these Reports would greatly tend to their being read, appreciated, and understood.

30. Can you give the Committee a list of the different mechanics' institutes and literary institutions in this country, and in Scotland and Ireland?—I have a list tolerably complete of the institutions throughout England, and a portion of those in Scotland and Ireland, but changes are occurring every day. I could correct the list, so as to make it as perfect as possible; it includes 815 at the present time.

31. Is there every year an increase in the number of those institutions?—Certainly; every year the number increases.

32. Are you aware whether the same class of persons subscribe to those institutions, or whether a higher class than used to subscribe now subscribe to them?—I believe that varies in different districts; what applies to Leeds, would not apply to Exeter; I could hardly give a general reply to that question applicable to the whole country.

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33. Are you aware that there is published every year a list of Parliamentary Papers and Reports in octavo size?—Yes, I am aware of that; but I believe that very few local institutions have any knowledge of the existence of that catalogue; in fact, it is a general complaint that they do not know what the Papers are: I have 300 letters asking the question, "Is there any list of these Reports, by which we might become acquainted with their titles and contents?"

34. Do not you think that if this list were distributed among these institutions, they would be able to make a selection?—No doubt it would help them very greatly; but the title being generally short, which is quite intelligible here, would not explain to parties in the country the exact nature of the document; and without further information, I fear they would not make a judicious selection.

35. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Would you recommend a selection to be made by somebody here, or by the institutions themselves?—I think a joint system would be found most advantageous.

36. Have you much information with respect to institutions in Ireland?—I have not a complete return of them. At the commencement of the formation of the union to which I referred, I understood that the Royal Society of Dublin had organised, or intended to organise, a union in that country, and therefore I felt a delicacy in writing to the institutions there; but some of them have come forward voluntarily, and expressed a desire to join this union.

37. I have seen a circular from the Society of Arts addressed to mechanics' institutes in Ireland upon this subject; have you had many answers to those circulars?—I believe I have had 15 or 20 replies.

38. Have you had any communication with the Dublin Statistical Society?—They are in union with the Society of Arts; and I believe they are forming a small union of some 20 or 30 Irish institutions, so that our circulars go through them to the Irish societies.

39. Mr. *Michell.*] Have you ever heard any opinion expressed by magistrates as to whether Parliamentary Papers would be useful in country districts; take, for instance, the Population Returns, which are very difficult to get at the extreme parts of the kingdom?—The evidence that I could give upon that point would rather go in the opposite direction; for where Parliamentary Papers have been sent to corporations, they seem to me in most cases to have been neglected, and set aside in some store-room, and forgotten, so that in a few years, when inquiry was made, the Papers could not be found.

40. I am speaking not of corporations, but of county towns; whether it would not be useful for magistrates of country districts to have a collection of those statistical Papers for reference?—I have no hesitation in saying that the Papers would be of great value; but I have had no communication with any magistrates upon the subject.

41. Colonel *Mure.*] You mentioned that out of this large list, you have been in correspondence with 250 institutions, but that that was not limited to those institutions with which you were in official communication; how were you led to correspond particularly with those bodies to which you allude upon the subject of Parliamentary Papers?—I am in correspondence with the whole number, 815; but the 252 with which I am in official communication, have joined the general union formed by the Society of Arts.

42. Only a portion of those institutions are in the habit of receiving Papers from the indulgence of the Society of Arts?—We send copies to all the institutions that have joined the Union; the number is increasing from day to day.

43. *Chairman.*] Do you think that there would be any objection to the condition being annexed, that those Reports should be accessible, not only to members of the institute, but also to other parties in the town?—I think there would be no objection whatever; that suggestion was made by a good many of the institutions, that if these publications were presented to their library, they would be willing to make it a condition that the public should have access to them at all reasonable hours, to a certain extent converting that portion of their library into a free library.

44. Do you think it would be desirable to annex the condition, that in the event of the dissolution of the society, the Reports should not be the property of the society, but should revert to the public?—I think it would be desirable; for these institutions are somewhat uncertain in their continuance, from the state of the law and from the circumstances, and they frequently get into debt, and sell off their libraries, and that opens the door to various irregularities. I think it should be a condition that these Reports ought never to be sold, and that they should revert to the public in the event of any society being dissolved.

45. Mr. *Brotherton.*] You have stated that where an application was made for Parliamentary Papers by different societies, you would recommend that the postage should be paid by them; but that where a selection of Papers was sent from London without their being selected by the societies, they should go free?—Yes.

46. As there is a catalogue of all the works which are published by Parliament from time to time during the Session, and as those societies could be furnished with that catalogue, would it not be better to leave the selection to each of those societies; then you would in time ascertain how far they appreciated those works, and you might in that case let them go free of postage?—That system might work extremely well with large societies of 500 members and more, but I think it would be found very difficult in the case of small institutions; the title as printed in the catalogue is so short, and contains so little information, that the societies would hardly know the bearing of the Report.

47. Would it not be desirable that there should be an officer appointed in London, perhaps connected with the Society of Arts, through whom all applications for these Papers should come?—Unquestionably the applications must be made to some individual, whether the printer of the Reports, or whom else I can hardly say, but they must all come to one office.

48. Would it not be desirable that the Society of Arts, or some committee in London, should be aware of all the Papers that were sent to the different societies, because as they were upon loan, there should be some committee or individual who was acquainted with all the societies who received them?—No doubt that would be the case. I think there is one important point in favour of these institutions applying for Reports, and that is, that you would thereby obtain extremely valuable statistical information as to minds that are at work in particular towns; you would see the subjects of inquiry that were of general interest, and find out the districts in which those subjects were most attended to.

49. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Through what body or persons would you propose this distribution to take place; should it be through the Society of Arts, for instance?—I do not know that the Society of Arts would be the best body; it is one of the societies that might undertake such an office.

50. I suppose the Society of Arts has more information upon the subject than any other body?—At the present time probably that is the case.

51. Would you propose any limit, at any rate at first, upon the number of institutions that should receive those papers, in reference, for instance, to the number of their members?—I think that would produce serious inconvenience; because in many cases smaller institutions contain more active and stirring men than the larger, and the larger institutions, having larger funds, would be more able to buy these Papers. I think the smaller institutions would be dealt very hardly with if they were excluded from any such privilege.

52. Have you a return of the number of members in each of those 252 institutions of which you spoke?—By no means an accurate one. I have returns from a large number of them, but not from all; but the number of members varies from day to day, so that it is hardly possible to make up a list perfect to the present time.

53. The class of members of those institutions in a town like Leeds, for example, would be very different from what it would be in a small town?—Yes, extremely different, and the ratio of members, compared with the population, varies in every district.

54. Mr. *Brotherton.*] I suppose these Parliamentary Papers are regarded more as works of reference than as useful for general reading?—They are works of general reading when they come out, if they are upon subjects of general interest; Papers upon Australia, for instance, would be read eagerly at the present time.

55. Mr. *Michell.*] Reports of Election Committees would, I presume, be read

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at the present time, and Reports on Education?—A great many institutions have taken exception to Reports relating to Election Petitions; they have said that they would be very interesting in the district or county to which they referred, but that they had no interest in other places.

56. Have not all those institutions newspapers in their reading-room?—Not all of them.

57. Supposing that a limited number, we will say 500, of those papers were to be distributed over England, how would you have them distributed, should it be relatively to the counties?—Probably some such system of distribution could be arranged; but certain large towns, Leeds, for example, and Manchester, ought to receive a large number of Reports, perhaps complete sets.

58. Would you distribute them according to the population?—I think three or four elements ought to be taken into consideration—the population of the district, the proximity to large cities, and other elements.

59. Mr. *Headlam.*] Have you considered what proportion of the Parliamentary Papers which are printed would be valuable for institutions of this kind?—Probably not more than 10 per cent., except in the case of large institutions, composed of a thousand members, these might desire to receive nearly the whole series.

60. The Papers which would be most valuable are those of a permanent kind, such as Navigation Returns, and Financial Reports, and Papers of a historical description?—All those which are not of a local or temporary interest would be the most useful.

61. Colonel *Mure.*] You said that you did not consider it expedient to take the number of the members of an institution as an index of their claim to receive these Papers, because many smaller institutions might contain more valuable members, and therefore might have a better claim than large institutions; how would you propose to draw the line if you did not select them with reference to the number of their members or the general extent and influence of the association?—I would take into consideration the neighbourhood of the institution to a large county town or place in which they might keep a great number of those Papers.

62. Supposing an institution, with no great number of members or wealth, were situated in an important district, you would prefer it to a large institution in a less important district?—It is very difficult to reply to that question without taking the special case of a town, because every case must depend upon its own merits.

63. You mentioned that the institutions in towns such as Leeds and Manchester, which, I presume, are the greatest in numbers and influence, should receive a larger number of Papers; under those circumstances, that would amount to selecting the great institutions in preference to the small ones?—In saying that, I was rather referring to the idea of a number of Papers being sent to selected institutions from London independently of application. I think that no small institution should be precluded from the power of receiving Papers if they applied; but the large institutions should receive a greater number of the Papers sent free from London.

64. You mean that no small institution should, on the ground of its smallness, be excluded?—Exactly.

65. Do you contemplate, as the result of the proceedings of the Committee, that every institution that applies, unless it could be shown to be quite insignificant, should receive Parliamentary Papers?—It would probably be necessary to lay down a rule as to what institutions should be recognised, either their having been in existence a certain number of months, or having a certain number of members.

66. Mr. *Drummond.*] You were asked as to certain classes of Papers, such as those relating to elections and to population, being useful; should you not consider those less advantageous than such as relate to the state of prisons and prison discipline, to juvenile offenders, to the enormous extent of the adulteration of food, to cases of disturbances, whether in this country, arising from any permanent cause, or in Ireland, the state of the East Indies, and the state of the population in our various Colonies, such as produced the scenes of the Kafir war?—They are of extreme value, but not of quite such a general nature as those I have referred to; they would find readers in large towns, but few readers in small towns and villages.

67. Would

67. Would they not be more interesting than the Population Returns?—The Population Returns would not be read, but referred to.

68. Do you think there is much taste for finance in those institutions?—Very little; papers relating to drainage, to the lighting of towns, and to the adulteration of food, would be of value in every town.

69. Mr. *Headlam.*] Would you have any permanent body to draw the line, and say which Papers should be circulated and which should not be circulated to those institutions?—I think it would be hard to say that they should not be circulated to those institutions if applied for; I would leave them the power of applying for any Papers that they felt to be of value in their own district. I may be allowed to observe, that in America, the whole of the Government Papers are sent, I understand, to every institution and library, whether large or small, in every town and in every village.

70. *Chairman.*] Are those the Papers printed by Congress?—Yes.

71. Mr. *Headlam.*] Some would be sent without a special application, and others would be sent upon the special application of institutions for particular Papers?—That is the mode I suggest, in accordance with the correspondence I have had with a large number of institutions.

72. How would you establish that distinction; who would be the authority to say as to any particular Paper under which head it was to come?—I think that must be settled in London, either under the authority of a Committee of this House, or by some proper tribunal, and that Papers of general interest should go to all institutions of a certain class.

73. Do you think it would be a good thing if the Papers were classified differently from what they are at the present moment; they are all bound up together, and there is only one index; do you think it would be a good thing if there was an index for those Papers which you would circulate, and another for the whole, including those which you do not propose to send to the institutions?—That would be a very good plan.

74. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Would it not create greater interest if they could receive the publications early?—Most certainly; a great delay of time is a serious drawback to the value of such Reports.

75. Mr. *Michell.*] Would you make any difference, if you were not able to circulate the Papers to all the institutions, between institutions that had permanent houses and those that had rented houses?—I am afraid the fact of having a permanent house does not constitute an institution any more permanent; it is quite as likely to get into debt and fail, as an institution that has a rented house.

76. *Chairman.*] Can you state the total number of these institutions in the country?—The number that I am at present in correspondence with is 815; but I have very little doubt that several have escaped notice, and that the total number is greater than that.

77. Supposing it were decided that it should be attempted to distribute those Parliamentary Papers to these institutions, is it your opinion that it would be desirable to begin by slow degrees, and not to distribute them too widely at first?—I think that the system should be introduced gradually, and with great discrimination. One of the most important features is the fact of calling upon the institutions to make inquiry, and to ask for Papers. I believe that one of the most excellent ways of assisting those institutions is to give them subjects of inquiry; the very looking over the list, and selecting and applying for special Reports, would have a beneficial influence on them.

78. Supposing you were to render it a condition of their having the Parliamentary Papers, that they should have a certain number, 300 or 400 Members, without reference to the locality, do you think that would be a good way of beginning?—It would excite great disapprobation in the small institutions, which frequently are more practically valuable institutions than those which have 50 or 100 members more.

79. Would not those institutions which were excluded in the first instance, themselves apply to be included, and, unless from applications, how are you able to find out which are the most deserving institutions to be supplied with these Papers?—From the general activity of the institution, you can find out how far it is composed of intelligent men, and from looking at the annual

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Reports, and observing their proceedings, which it has been my business to do for several years past.

80. Mr. *Hutt.*] I understand you to propose to commence upon a moderate scale in the first instance, and to enlarge it as opportunity offered for doing so?—Yes, if it should be found to work well.

81. You would have a large distribution of Papers after a time?—Yes, it should come to that if it was found to answer the purpose of the institutions, and if they seemed to look upon it as of great importance.

82. You would not think it very important if some of the Parliamentary Papers were thrown away?—That would be the lesser evil of the two.

83. *Chairman.*] Have you any means of knowing whether the Reports now circulated are appreciated by the institutions?—They seem to have excited a great deal of interest from the letters I have received, and they have been read or referred to by a large number of persons.

84. As far as that distribution has gone, it has been very satisfactory?—Very much so.

85. Mr. *Headlam.*] Would it be a good thing to insist that the institutions should have them bound at their own expense?—I am afraid the expense would press very heavily upon many institutions.

86. Colonel *Mure.*] What is your mode of distinguishing what institutions fall within this definition, and what do not fall within it; there are so many institutions of the same kind, but coupled with other objects?—That list includes all public institutions, which any men in the town or village can join, for the diffusion of useful information.

87. When you say public institutions, you mean not in the strict sense of the word, because many of those are private, consisting of members admitted by election or ballot?—We have excluded the proprietary institutions; where a man has formed a library or reading room for his own profit, I call that a private institution.

88. Mr. *Michell.*] Would it not be desirable to confine the circulation of Papers to those institutions which join the Society of Arts?—It would hardly be fair upon the other institutions of the country to give such a privilege to the Society of Arts; there are many institutions which have not joined the union of the Society of Arts, on the ground that they were large and important institutions, not requiring any aid from London.

89. You think that would not be any guide as to their wish to possess those works?—It could hardly be taken as a fair guide.

90. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do not you think that newspaper editors in country towns would make use of those Papers to obtain information upon public matters?—Yes, to some extent they would.

91. Colonel *Muir.*] With reference to the class of institutions to be favoured, assuming a portion only were selected, might it not, instead of selecting the wealthy and greater institutions as the object of indulgence, in the first instance be well to exclude them, on the ground that, having ample funds, they have the means of providing such documents for themselves, and rather, if a limited selection is made, favour those whose means are less adequate to procure the Papers for themselves?—If a very limited selection of those Papers were sent, it would be desirable to send them to those places where they would be likely to be used by the largest number of persons; the expense of printing a few more copies would be but trifling, and it would, I think, excite great disapprobation to leave out large towns, on the ground that the institutions were rich.

92. I referred not to the size of the towns, but to the wealth and importance of the institutions?—I hardly see a reason for making that distinction.

93. *Chairman.*] Are you of opinion that this distribution of Parliamentary Papers would tend to the stability of mechanics' institutes?—I believe it would exercise a very favourable influence on their stability; if any line of distinction were drawn, and it is obvious that some line must be drawn, they would be anxious that their institutions should come within the list of those recognised by Parliament; and the fact of their being made the depositories of those books, which would not be presented, but lent, would tend to render them more permanent, and less likely to be broken up by accidental circumstances.

94. Mr. *Hutt.*] Would you make it a condition that those Papers should be held by different institutions in trust for the public?—It is important that the institutions

institutions should not possess the power of selling them, or giving them away, when through accidental circumstances the institution got into difficulties.

95. Is there any other condition which you would impose upon the distribution of the Papers?—I do not know that any other general condition would be necessary.

96. Would you propose to make it a condition that all parties receiving those Papers should give the use of those Papers to the public?—That is extremely desirable, and in most cases might be carried out.

97. Do you think that mechanics' institutes would object to throwing open their establishments freely to the public as regards those Parliamentary Papers?—A large number have voluntarily expressed their readiness to do so.

98. Mr. *Michell.*] Do you know cases in which institutions are thrown open, not only to those living in the towns, but to strangers; for instance, in county towns have you known institutions thrown open to magistrates, and persons of that sort?—I believe there are cases of that kind, but I cannot at this moment call to mind an example of such an institution.

99. Colonel *Mure.*] If the public were to be admitted freely to examine those Papers in the ordinary reading-room of the society, would that be found to the taste of the great body of the members?—I believe in the smaller institutions there would be a sort of arrangement as to the hours and days when the public should have access; it might be arranged in many instances that the day should be market-day, so as not to interfere with the ordinary reading of the members.

100. Mr. *Michell.*] What is the lowest payment that is made by any members to those institutions?—I can hardly state the average payment, but in many instances it is very low.

101. Is it ever as low as a shilling a quarter?—Lower than that.

102. *Chairman.*] Have you any general observations to make upon this subject, either as to the benefit which would arise to institutions, or as to the way in which, in your opinion, it would be the best to carry it out?—As far as my experience goes, most of my views upon the subject have been elicited by the questions addressed to me by various Members of the Committee.

103. Mr. *Headlam.*] Have you any observations to make as to the mode in which Parliamentary Papers are now sold?—I think the mode of selling the Parliamentary Papers renders it extremely difficult to persons not conversant with the names and titles of those Papers to obtain them; unless they know the correct designation of a Report they will have great difficulty, and often find it impossible to obtain the Paper which they desire, even though it is published; not asking for it in the right way, they will be told that no such document exists.

104. Can country booksellers generally give them information upon that point?—I believe very little indeed.

105. Practically, does that prevent the circulation of Parliamentary Papers among persons desirous of purchasing them?—Almost entirely.

106. Colonel *Mure.*] Are you aware of the expense which the Society of Arts has incurred in the distribution which it has made on its own account to societies in connexion with it?—I can only speak very generally that it amounts to many hundreds of pounds.

107. As regards those bodies which are anxious to have Parliamentary Papers, do you consider that the price of Parliamentary Papers is too high?—It is not so much the price that they complain of, as ignorance of what is published, and the difficulty of obtaining it, even when they know it to be published.

108. There is no complaint of the rate at which the Papers are sold?—On the contrary, I rather find astonishment at the low rate at which they are published.

109. Mr. *Hutt.*] On general considerations, do you think it desirable to retain the prices which are charged for those Papers, or to reduce them?—In some cases they are too high; to pay half-a-guinea for a Report seems a good deal of money, as compared with the use to be made of it. I am referring to some Returns under two ounces in weight which are published at a charge of a few pence, and which often are of extreme value.

110. Colonel *Mure.*] When the works come to be of considerable bulk, you are of opinion that the rates charged are too high?—They would be too high for the country institutions to apply for them, if they had to pay for them.

111. Mr. *Hutt.*] Are there any other Papers of general interest published by the State, independently of what are commonly known as Parliamentary Papers,

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which you think it would be desirable to distribute among the various institutions?—Some of the Papers published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office are very desirable; I believe circulars have gone to the country, informing institutions of the price at which they might be had, and I have had letters complaining that those prices were far too high for country institutions to pay.

112. There have been at various times works of considerable importance, published by the State, such as the "Monumenta Britannica," which was published by a Commission appointed by Parliament, and issued at a very high price; do you think it desirable that all such works should be sold at prices which would render them attainable by the institutions?—Under a judicious system of selection, it would be extremely desirable.

113. *Chairman.*] From your evidence I should collect that in your opinion a good selection of the Parliamentary Papers would be as great a boon to the societies as the gratuitous distribution?—Certainly, of the two it is the more important.

114. Colonel *Mure.*] Is the correspondence of the Society of Arts common to the three parts of the kingdom, England, Scotland, and Ireland, and exactly on the same footing?—Entirely.

115. Mr. *Headlam.*] Supposing a selection were made of Parliamentary Papers, do you think it would be desirable to allow private individuals to subscribe, paying a certain sum for that selection of Papers?—I think it would.

116. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Do you think it would be very productive?—No, not very.

117. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do you remember how many Irish institutions have joined the Society of Arts?—I think not more than eight or nine.

118. Altogether there are about 25, are there not?—Rather more than that.

119. Colonel *Mure.*] Have you any note of the number in Scotland?—I have not the number with me; I could supply it. I think there are about 20, and they are institutions of extreme activity.

120. Mr. *Byng.*] You mentioned 815 of those institutions; are all those in connexion with the Society of Arts?—No; that is the number in correspondence with us. The number in connexion is 252.

121. Are the remainder subject, in any degree, to the laws of the Society of Arts?—Union with the Society of Arts does not in any way interfere with the independent action of the societies. It is merely a friendly union for correspondence and co-operation.

122. Mr. *Michell.*] The Society of Arts gives information to all within that union with regard to lectures or anything of that sort?—Yes, with regard to all matters relating to their prosperity.

Edward Baines, Esq., called in; and Examined.

E. Baines, Esq.

123. *Chairman.*] YOU are, I believe, the President of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes?—I am.

124. Do you recollect how many institutes are included in that union?—There are 123 institutes, with from 19,000 to 20,000 members.

125. How long has that union been in existence?—I hold in my hand the 15th Annual Report; it has been 15 years in existence.

126. Has the number of institutes included in that union been increasing?—The number has been continually increasing; it began with 13, and has gone up to the present number.

127. Are there annual meetings of the union?—There are annual meetings of the union held in different towns of the county, and those annual meetings are perhaps amongst the most useful features of the union; they are attended by delegates from the institutes, generally composed of the most active and zealous members, who state their experience of the past year and the condition of their institutions, and make any suggestion either of warning or of encouragement, and that comparison of experience is found to be amongst the greatest advantages that we possess. I may state also, that the Yorkshire Union receives reports from the several associated institutes, and publishes those reports in the form which I hold in my hand, introduced by a general report, containing comments upon such features of the institutions as suggest themselves as novel or striking, or calling for recommendations of any kind.

128. The

128. The last annual meeting, I believe, was held on the 2d of June?—Yes, at Skipton.

129. Was there at that meeting any discussion or any resolution passed respecting the distribution of Parliamentary Papers amongst mechanics' institutes?—A resolution was unanimously passed that a petition should be presented upon the subject.

130. From your position, as president of the union, you are enabled to state what is the general feeling of the institutes in association with it; are you of opinion that there is any general interest felt upon the subject of the distribution of Parliamentary Papers?—The subject has not been discussed till last year, and I have not had personal intercourse with many persons on the subject; I know little more than what took place at that meeting; several persons expressed their opinion that it would be a great advantage to have the Reports and Papers published by the House of Commons in their libraries; I believe I may say that that is a pretty general opinion on the part of those who have expressed any opinion upon the subject, but the subject itself is new.

131. Would it, in your opinion, be advisable to give the whole bulk of the Parliamentary Papers to those institutions, or to give them a selection?—In my opinion it would be out of the question to give the whole bulk of Parliamentary Papers; the large majority of them would be useless, I conceive, and the libraries of a great many of the institutes would not be able to accommodate them.

132. You are aware that the average number of volumes printed every year is about 60?—Yes.

133. You are of opinion that the libraries of those institutions would not be able to accommodate so great a number?—I think not.

134. In the event of its being considered desirable to make a selection, in what way would that selection be best made?—I think the selection might be made by some person here; by some gentlemen connected with the House itself who are acquainted with mechanics' institutes, who might correspond with such institutes, and ascertain what Reports or Papers were likely to be at all useful to them.

135. You do not think the members of mechanics' institutes would be able to make a selection in the first instance of those which would be most useful for their libraries?—I cannot say that I think they would not, if they were furnished with a catalogue of them; but I think it is not improbable, from their ignorance of the contents of many of those Papers, that sometimes they might ask for rather a large number.

136. Do you think that those institutions would object, themselves, either to pay or make arrangement for the carriage of Parliamentary Reports?—If those Papers were charged the usual postage, in my opinion most institutes would object to receive them.

137. If the papers were under a certain number, might they not be able to make arrangements through some bookseller, who sent parcels of books down to the country?—In many cases they might make some arrangement; but I am afraid there are many cases in which institutes in villages would have difficulty.

138. Do you think the Reports of inquiries of Committees of the House of Commons would be of particular interest to the members of those institutions?—The Reports of many of those inquiries would be particularly interesting, and it seems to me that Papers relative to trade, commerce and navigation would be very useful. The Tables of Revenue, Commerce and Population, published by the Board of Trade, would be very useful; the Population Returns; the Returns for the last Census Report; the Papers relative to Mines, Manufactures and Education in this country; the Tariffs and Commercial Treaties with other Powers; Finance Accounts; Reports of Mining Inspectors. For some institutes Reports concerning Harbours and Pilotage; and for some of them Reports concerning local Railways; and any Reports concerning Mechanical Inventions would be very useful.

139. Do you think the Report of such an inquiry as the inquiry into the Income-tax, or the best means of taking care of Criminal and Destitute Children, would be of interest?—In many mechanics' institutes there are persons who would read those volumes with great interest and with advantage.

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140. But you do not think they would be generally useful?—I think it would be generally useful to have such reports disseminated as widely as possible.

141. I suppose in mechanics' institutes the library is a very great attraction?—The library may be considered perhaps the chief attraction; there are libraries in almost all mechanics' institutes. I will state a few particulars concerning some of those libraries. In 113 institutes of the Yorkshire Union, according to the Report of 1852, the libraries contained 95,529 volumes, being an average of 845 volumes in each. The annual issue of volumes from the libraries in those 113 institutes were in the year 388,202, being an average of 3,435 issues for each institute, and about 20 volumes were taken out on the average by each member; 26 of the libraries contained upwards of 1,000 volumes each. Connected with the library is very frequently a reading-room, and rather less frequently a news-room.

142. Do you think it would be an objection if a condition were annexed to the distribution of Parliamentary Papers, that they should be accessible to others than members of the institutes themselves?—I think it would be, and I think it ought to be. I am sure it would be, because of the practical inconvenience of admitting persons who were not members to a room in which property was contained which might be taken away, and also from the opinion which many would form that it would tend to diminish the number of parties as subscribers to the institutions. Considering how very small the amount of the year's subscription is, it seems to me to be undesirable to admit the public gratuitously to such an advantage; it would be rather desirable to make this an additional attraction for the libraries, so as to induce all who cared to look at those Reports to become subscribers and members.

143. Do you think the condition might be annexed, that in the event of the dissolution of the institution the Reports should revert to the public, and not be the property of the institution itself?—I think, in strictness, that would be perfectly correct; as a point of practice, I think it would be hardly worth while, because old Reports in considerable numbers are of very little value.

144. I believe there is great difficulty found in all institutes respecting the property of members in the books?—Yes; there is a difficulty arising from the state of the law implying a partnership on the part of all the members; so that if books are purloined, it is impossible to obtain a conviction against the person who has purloined them, if he is a member or subscriber, he being held in law to be a partner.

145. If a member injures books at present, no person can come upon him for the injury he has done?—He cannot be compelled to replace them; the only effective punishment is expulsion; of course there are fines, but if a person decline to pay those fines, there is no legal mode of exacting them.

146. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Do not you think it would be desirable to make some alteration in the law with regard to mechanics' institutes?—Yes; I think there are several improvements which it is desirable to have with regard to holding property; land and buildings, as well as personal property and books and apparatus in trust, I think should be conveyed in a cheaper way, and should be held in a way more convenient and less liable to litigation.

147. *Chairman.*] In whom, according to your view, should the property rest? I conceive that it ought to rest in trustees appointed by the members; there are generally trustees, and in several cases there are trust-deeds, but connected with many of them there are great difficulties; at this present time we have applications from many of the institutes in the Yorkshire Union asking for our interference to obtain for them a simple and inexpensive form of trust-deed, and one that would be effectual for the purpose.

148. Under the new system which you would suggest, the members themselves would have the right of enjoying the books, but no right of property in them?—The books would then belong to the trustees for the purposes specified in the trust-deed. A member who is only an annual subscriber would not have any property in them; he might at any time withdraw from the institution by ceasing his subscription; therefore it is not right that he should have a property in them. There are, indeed, institutions where there are proprietary members, but those tickets are saleable.

149. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Are there not cases where the trustees have no power whatever over the books or property of the society, but only the building?—Yes, I think there are such cases.

150. *Chairman.*]

150. *Chairman.*] Supposing it should be found advisable, at any rate at first, to limit the distribution of Parliamentary Papers to only a certain number of societies, could you suggest any way in which a selection of those societies might be made?—It might assist the judgment of the Committee if I were to state the number of the members in the institutes of the Yorkshire Union. Of 108 of those institutes, 19 have less than 50 members; 31 have from 50 to 100 members, making a total of 50 with less than 100 members; 35 have from 100 to 200 members; 17 have from 200 up to 500 members; 6 have upwards of 500 members. I believe that many of the smaller institutes would find it difficult to accommodate in their libraries the volumes which might be sent to them, partly in consequence of the inconvenient size of those volumes, the octavo size being greatly more convenient for libraries, and partly also in consequence of the number of volumes, and of their limited accommodation.

151. You think it would be necessary to ascertain first of all what accommodation each institute would be able to afford?—I conceive that that is a condition essential that there should be proof afforded to those who have the distribution of those Papers that the institute would be able to accommodate them.

152. Those smaller institutes having less than 100 members are, I suppose, in rural districts?—They are for the most part in rural districts. Some of them are in small agricultural towns, and there are institutes in some of the borough towns of Yorkshire with less than 100 members.

153. Mr. *Headlam.*] Does your Society extend beyond Yorkshire?—It takes in one institution at the extremity of the county, which applied to be admitted, I mean Darlington; and there is one place on the borders of Lancashire, that is Mosley, which is included.

154. *Chairman.*] Were the institutes included in your union represented at the conference with the Society of Arts which was held in May last?—I attended that conference myself, and a few of our members attended it; but not many of our members attended it.

155. Have any petitions upon this subject been presented from the institutions included in your union?—Several.

156. Are the institutions which have petitioned upon this subject chiefly institutions with a large number of members, or with a small number of members?—Those I have heard of that have petitioned are institutions having a large number of members.

157. It is to be supposed that those institutions having a large number of members would feel a greater interest in having those Papers than smaller institutions?—Yes; there must, of course, always be a larger number of persons in those institutions interested in the matter.

158. Is it your opinion that the reception of those Parliamentary Papers would tend to elevate the character of these institutions, and insure their permanence?—I think it would tend to elevate their character, and I think it would have some tendency to insure their permanence; and I conceive that the advantage would be very considerable; that the diffusion of accurate information would tend very much to check the spread of vulgar errors and prejudices. I think it would tend to stimulate to the acquisition of correct knowledge; it would stimulate thought and inquiry. If a condition were annexed to receiving those Papers, that the Society should consist of a certain number of members, that would stimulate those societies considerably to obtain and keep up the number of members; that would be the qualification to receiving the Papers.

159. Mr. *Hutt.*] Would you take an absolute number, or a number with reference to the population of the locality?—I feel that it is a subject of some difficulty to decide that. I am afraid that it might be requisite to fix upon an absolute number; at the same time that, like any other definite rigid rule laid down, might sometimes operate injuriously, and might exclude some institutions where there were members of habits of research and inquiry; but I do not see at present any mode which could be adopted by the Committee of the House of Commons, for example, remote from those situations, except drawing some line as to the number of the members.

160. *Chairman.*] It would be the most obvious line to draw at first?—It would; experience might show that some other line might be adopted, and I am not prepared to say that some other might not be adopted.

161. It is the safest line at first to adopt?—It is one which suggested itself to my mind, and it seemed to me almost the only one that was practicable.

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162. Mr. *Michell.*] Would you draw the line with reference to the population of the district, or the number of members of the institute?—With reference to the number of members.

163. You would not draw the line so as to give so many Papers to a county according to the population of the county?—I think it would not be desirable, for this reason, among others, that in some cases the population is so widely diffused, that they could not avail themselves of those Papers.

164. Suppose you found a town with a population of 10,000, in that town, of course, there could not be a large mechanics' institute; but if it was in the centre of the manufacturing or mining population, would you deprive them of this privilege?—Certainly not; but there are many towns with a population of less than 10,000 where we have 200 or 300 members.

165. Mr. *Brotherton.*] The great object of distributing these Papers to mechanics' institutes is to encourage them?—Yes.

166. Mr. *Walter.*] You would not propose to limit the use of the Parliamentary Papers to members of the institutes?—Yes, I think that would be one means of keeping the members together. I have stated that there would be considerable practical inconvenience in admitting persons into the room who were not members; the members would not have full control over their own apartment, if any one had a right to come in upon the plea that he was wanting to examine Parliamentary Papers. Then I conceive that the charge generally in these institutions is so low, that any person really desirous of availing himself of that advantage might become a subscriber; the charge in some cases is not more than a penny a week, though I think that much too low; it should not be less than two-pence a week; but in many cases it is three half-pence a week; and so low a charge as that would permit any person desirous of consulting the Papers to become a Member, and thereby advantage the institution.

167. Why do you draw a distinction between the public having access to those public institutions in order to consult documents, and having access to the British Museum or other public libraries?—The British Museum is not a private institution; it is a great national institution, and its property is placed under very efficient care and management. I conceive that you would not have the same right to affix a condition of that sort to these institutions, or, that if you have a right to affix that condition, in many cases it would operate to prevent them availing themselves of the advantage that you would offer.

168. Mr. *Michell.*] In some institutions the payments are less than a penny a week, are they not?—There are very few in which they are so low.

169. Would it not answer the purpose if the institutions limited the right to persons not members to examine these works to certain days of the week?—My opinion is, that great advantage would accrue from the additional attraction to persons to become members, which would be possessed by the society having those reports.

170. Mr. *Headlam.*] Would you in all cases give them perfectly gratis?—I think they should be presented perfectly gratis; if any charge were made for them, I think it would operate rather considerably to prevent their being taken, especially as there must necessarily be some charge, at least in many institutions, connected with the carriage of them.

171. Would you have them sent postage free?—It would be a great advantage if that could be done; they will be received with much irregularity if they are not sent postage free.

172. Do not you think that there is some danger of parties not appreciating very highly that for which nothing is given?—I think there is.

173. Do not you think, if it is necessary that some limit should be placed as to the distribution of the Papers, that some payment should be made, as a means of testing the degree of interest taken in those Papers?—I am not prepared to say that that would not be desirable.

174. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Would not the payment and trouble of the carriage be a sufficient test of the interest taken?—I feel some difficulty in giving an answer to that question.

175. Might there not be some office here where, on application, those societies would find their parcel of books waiting for them, and they would be able to make use of any opportunity that arose, such as one of their members coming on business to London, and fetching their parcel of books; and the amount of trouble that they took in fetching them would be a test of the interest they felt

felt in the matter?—My impression of what is, on the whole, the right test, is that, inasmuch as the House of Commons publishes its own Reports, and it would only entail the expense of a few more copies, it might present the copies to the institutions, but that it need not go to any actual outlay beyond that in order to get the copies supplied to the various libraries; that it might leave the parties either to pay the postage, or to make such arrangements as the Honourable Member has just described.

176. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Do not you think it would excite a great interest in mechanics' institutes if they could receive those Papers immediately after their publication?—Certainly, it would.

177. It would very much enhance their value?—Yes.

178. Mr. *Headlam.*] Would you take any precaution for their preservation after the institutes had received them?—I think that an engagement should be given by some parties who are considered respectable; the president, for example, and the committee, that they should be preserved for a certain length of time; it is for the Committee to decide whether it is desirable to insist that they shall be preserved any great length of time; every Honourable Member must know very well how amazingly works of that sort accumulate, and how difficult it is to find house-room for them when they accumulate for a great number of years.

179. Have you considered what proportion of the whole of the Parliamentary Papers it would be desirable to circulate in this way?—I have not considered the proportion, but I have stated the class of Parliamentary Papers which it appears to me would possess most interest, and which would be most useful to these institutions.

180. You stated that there was some difficulty in the law with reference to mechanics' institutes; could you give more accurate information of what changes would, in your opinion, be desirable in that respect?—I think it would be presumptuous in me, not being a legal man, to state those changes; but I may refer to a paper published by the Society of Arts, which would give the Committee every information that they might desire upon the subject; it is a paper written by Mr. Harry Chester on the legal position of mechanics' institutes; and there is another paper written by Mr. Arthur Ryland, a solicitor in Birmingham, contained in the Journal of the Society of Arts of the 11th of February.

181. Have you found practically that difficulties arising from defects in the law have occurred?—We have found them in several cases.

182. Mr. *Fortescue.*] What proportion of the whole number of your institutes do you say have news-rooms?—I am not able to say what proportion of our institutes have news-rooms; but in Dr. Hudson's volume, the History of Adult Education, published in 1851, it is stated that of 702 institutes existing in the United Kingdom, 408 have news-rooms.

183. I believe in some institutes there is a rule against the admission into the library of political works, or works of party politics?—I am not aware of that; it is not a rule against the admission of works of that nature, but against discussions of that nature. There is some difficulty found relative to subjects of party politics and controversial religion; the general principle is to avoid those subjects in lectures and in discussions, but not always to avoid them in the admission of works into the library; for example, I may refer to two books that were published last year; one of them, Mr. Disraeli's Life of Lord George Bentinck, and the other, Mr. Roebuck's History of the Whig Administration of 1830. It would be wrong to exclude those from a library, and yet they may be considered books of party politics.

184. Mr. *Michell.*] When you have books presented to you, you do not take notice whether they are upon party politics, or upon controversial religion?—When books are presented, they are in most cases accepted; but there is always a power in the committee to reject any, and the committee would reject any works that they thought improper.

185. Have you ever known an instance of a political or religious work being rejected?—I have known instances of religious, or rather I might say irreligious books having been admitted, and it having been afterwards discovered what they were, and rejected.

186. Colonel *Mure.*] Have many of the societies connected with the Yorkshire Union received Parliamentary Papers from the Society of Arts. Mr. Solly mentioned that the Society of Arts had made distribution to certain associations

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in connexion with it, amounting to 252 in number; did any of your institutions receive papers from the Society of Arts?—I think it was not Parliamentary Papers. I think it was the little paper which I handed to the Honourable Member, the Journal of the Society of Arts. I am not aware that the Society of Arts has distributed any Parliamentary Papers to the mechanics' institutes.

187. Mr. *Michell.*] Have any Members of Parliament placed their Parliamentary Papers at the disposal of mechanics' institutes?—There have been cases of that kind.

188. Have they been found useful?—I do not remember to have heard whether they have been found useful; but I have heard that they have been considered an acceptable gift, and I presume they would be regarded as useful.

189. Colonel *Mure.*] Might it not be desirable in central parts of districts or counties to have a general collection of Parliamentary Papers, which might be consulted by all persons who desired to consult them?—It might be desirable; but there are many ways in which such Papers are accessible without such an arrangement. For example, in circulating libraries, and in libraries of chambers of commerce, and sometimes in news-rooms and reading-rooms, such Papers are taken.

190. A complete collection?—No; perhaps it is not common to find a complete collection; there are very few towns in the kingdom that would possess a complete collection.

191. Mr. *Michell.*] Do not you think that it would be desirable in county towns where the assizes and sessions are held, that those Papers should be accessible to magistrates and counsel and others?—It might be advantageous; but even there a selection would have to be made, or they would multiply most enormously, beyond all power of accommodating them.

192. Mr. *Hutt.*] One of the difficulties in carrying out the object which we have in view would be the machinery for the distribution of those Papers?—Certainly, that is the chief difficulty.

193. You contemplate that the distribution should be through a Committee of the House of Commons?—Through a Committee, or through gentlemen connected with the House of Commons. It had occurred to me that the House, to guard against any abuse, might think it proper to put the distribution under the control of its officers.

194. Would not the same functions be well performed by the Society of Arts?—I think the Society of Arts would perform them very well.

195. You are aware of the part which the Society of Arts has taken in the promotion of this object?—Yes.

196. Supposing the Society of Arts were willing to undertake the trouble and responsibility of this duty, would it not have this advantage over any gentlemen selected by the House of Commons, that it would be a permanent institution, and that, therefore, parties might apply for Papers, and have them distributed to them at any period of the year?—Yes, there is that advantage.

197. Does it not appear to you, on the whole, that the Society of Arts would be a more desirable medium of distributing those Papers than a committee, or any gentlemen connected with the House of Commons?—On the ground just stated, undoubtedly it would appear to be considerably more advantageous. I am not aware whether the fact of the perfect irresponsibility of the Society of Arts, and the possibility that they might lay down some arbitrary rule or principle that might not be acceptable, or might not even be just, would make an objection to the Society of Arts being the medium of distribution.

198. Mr. *Michell.*] Might not some sort of restraint be put upon that by there being a communication between members of this House and the Society of Arts, considering that the Society of Arts is in communication now with 250 of those institutions, and that, therefore, they might send Papers to them in the same way as they send papers now to those institutions. Could they not send the Parliamentary Papers easier than any other body could do?—I am not aware that the fact that they send other papers would give them any particular advantage in sending these Parliamentary Papers.

199. But they are in communication with those 250 institutions?—They are; but I am not aware that they send any books or papers; it is to be understood that that communication is only just opened, and it is perfectly in its infancy; the experiment commenced in the spring of the present year.

200. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do you think the committee of the Society of Arts would

would be a suitable body to have the selection of Papers to be sent to mechanics' institutes?—It seems to me that it would be a very suitable body. The suggestion appears to be a valuable one.

201. *Chairman.*] Supposing the Society of Arts undertook the duties of selecting and distributing such Papers, would not it be desirable that at the end of the year the Society of Arts should make a report of what it had done?—I should think quite so.

202. Addressed probably to the Home Secretary?—Yes.

203. Colonel *Mure.*] There is a distinction between different kinds of Parliamentary Papers. There are certain Papers which come out day by day, and which are of immediate interest to public bodies and other parties. There are others which would be of no particular interest to them probably till the end of the Session. Does it appear to you to be desirable that some means should be devised of sending Papers of the first class immediately, while the general selection might be postponed till the close of the Session?—I should think it desirable that the Committee should be sitting frequently, so as not to defer sending out publications for a whole Session, but that they should be sent out as they are published. The value of a public document might be very much diminished by its delivery being delayed for several months, possibly six months in some cases. I should think that if there were a Committee of the Society of Arts it might make its decision fortnightly or monthly, so as to provide for sending out papers without delay.

204. Papers of all descriptions?—Papers of all descriptions which are thought suitable to be circulated.

205. Mr. *Headlam.*] Do you think in cases like that of the Yorkshire Union, the Papers might be sent to some one central place, and be there applied for by the different institutions which required them?—I do not think so. Generally the convenience of obtaining Papers from London through the publishers' parcels would be much greater than obtaining them from any country town, even though it were only eight or nine miles distant.

206. Mr. *Michell.*] Do you think there are any defects in the mode in which Parliamentary Papers are now sold which render them inaccessible to the public?—I am not very competent to answer that question; I obtain Parliamentary Papers myself by paying a certain sum for them, and they are sent to me with regularity.

207. In what mode do you obtain them?—Through publishers in London, Messrs. Bigg & Son; I order them, and they are sent down to me with regularity.

208. You order in each case the particular Paper you require of a London publisher?—Sometimes I do that; sometimes I order the whole of the Votes and Proceedings, sometimes the whole of the Parliamentary Papers. There are fixed prices; 2*l.* 10*s.* for the Votes and Proceedings, and about 12*l.* for the whole of the Parliamentary Papers, exclusive of the Votes.

209. Do you think that any person in the country desirous of procuring any particular Report, and not having a knowledge of the mode in which the Parliamentary Papers are usually obtained, would practically find it a matter of some difficulty to obtain that particular Report?—Yes, I think he might.

210. Do you think that that difficulty interferes with the circulation of the whole or any portion of the Parliamentary Papers among the public?—I do not see how you are to remove the difficulty, except by the information being diffused by means of the press, as to the mode of access to Parliamentary Papers.

211. Supposing a selection were made out of the whole of the Parliamentary Papers, of a certain portion which it was considered desirable to send gratuitously to different societies, do you think private individuals would be desirous of subscribing for that particular collection without taking in the whole of the Parliamentary Papers?—That must entirely depend upon the character and extent of that selection; I could not answer that question till I saw what degree of liberality was exercised, and what the judgment of the Committee or of the House might be as to the character of the Papers thus to be sent out, and the extent of them.

212. The question assumes that a selection would be made of that portion of the Parliamentary Papers which are of permanent and general value, as contradistinguished from those which are of temporary or local importance only?—I think it is extremely probable that the selection would be received by a great

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number of persons as a valuable selection, and that it would be a guide to them; in receiving those Papers for libraries, I think it would be a practical convenience.

213. Supposing such a selection were made, under the direction probably of the librarian here, a complete index being given, and successive volumes issued of that particular portion of the Parliamentary Papers deemed of permanent value, do you think the owners of large libraries, like some of the clubs, for instance, would be inclined to subscribe and take in that portion of the Parliamentary Papers?—I have no doubt it would be eagerly received in many parts of the country, as a most desirable thing for public libraries, and that private individuals in considerable numbers would avail themselves of such an advantage as a judicious selection, with an index.

214. Mr. *Walter.*] Can you state any particular reasons which appear to you to render it desirable that the Society of Arts should be the medium of collecting and transmitting such Papers, instead of a Committee of the House of Commons?—The reason which has been suggested by the Honourable Member who put the question, is, that their Committee is always sitting, whereas Members are here only a part of the year. I should, in the first instance, have thought the more natural course was, that the House should keep it under its own management by a Committee of its own Members; but, in addition to that reason, which has just been alluded to, for the Society of Arts doing it, namely, that its committee is sitting the whole year round, there is the other reason, that they are in constant communication, or at least they intend to be, (for the connexion is only recent) with the mechanics' institutions; and they, therefore, may be supposed to be well qualified, I do not say better qualified, to make such a selection.

215. Colonel *Mure.*] Would not you subject the committee of the Society of Arts to some control on the part of a Committee of the House of Commons, or would you allow them to apply to the Librarian, or whoever may have the immediate charge of these Papers, on their own suggestion, and have any Paper supplied to them without the immediate interposition of the authority of the House, or its Committee?—I do not know the amount of authority exercised by the Printing Committee, or the Library Committee, or any other Committee of the House of Commons who may have the charge of the Papers; I should suppose the House would not think it expedient to give *carte blanche* to the Society of Arts to call for whatever Papers they please.

216. The question arose from your observation that the committee of the Society of Arts would sit permanently, whereas the Committee of the House of Commons would only sit for a portion of the year, which appeared to imply that during the portion of the year when the House of Commons was not sitting, those Papers which might be issued subsequently to the Session, would not be accessible, unless through the intervention of some other body distinct from the Parliamentary Committee?—In that case the committee of the Society of Arts might obtain such Papers as they thought proper, within limits which had been previously laid down by the Parliamentary Committee, and with such restrictions as the Committee of the House were pleased to impose.

217. Mr. *Walter.*] Do not you think, as a general principle, that the House of Commons, through its Committee, is the fittest judge of what Papers are specially applicable to the wants of mechanics' institutions?—There may be Members of the House of Commons who, from their connexion with mechanics' institutions, are as well qualified as any other persons can possibly be to form such a judgment. The Society of Arts, by its position and duties, is well qualified also. It is not easy to form a judgment which of those two parties would be the better qualified for that office; I may say that the Right honourable Chairman of this Committee is well acquainted with the mechanics' institution at Devonport, for instance, and I know many other Members of Parliament who are perfectly acquainted with the working of the mechanics' institutions in their own neighbourhood; I may refer to Mr. Evelyn Denison, for example, who has been the chairman of the Midland Counties Union; gentlemen, under such circumstances, would be well qualified to form a judgment. Whether they would be better qualified than the Committee of the Society of Arts, I hesitate to say.

218. *Chairman.*] Are you aware of the fact, that a distribution of Parliamentary Papers similar to that which we are now contemplating, is in operation in America under the direction of the Legislature?—I am aware that they order such

such and such numbers of Parliamentary Papers to be printed, but I am not aware of the manner in which those are circulated to societies or public bodies.

219. Have you any further observations to offer to the Committee?—I would only say that, in my judgment, while it is desirable that the House of Commons should give the advantage of its own Papers to mechanics' institutions, it would be very undesirable indeed that any grants of money should be made to those institutions. I conceive that the life and vigour of those institutions consists very much in their independence; and it would be exceedingly undesirable that they should be brought under anything like Governmental management. I believe it would operate very strongly against them; I believe very great objections would be felt on the score of extended patronage and influence by that means, and there are many who would object to it so decidedly, that it would be the means of breaking up many mechanics' institutions, if such grants were made.

220. Mr. *Walter.*] Have you formed any estimate of the probable bulk of the Papers, founded upon the average publication in any given number of years, which would be asked for by public institutions?—I have not.

221. Mr. *Michell.*] Would it be right, in your opinion, that the Papers should be presented to those mechanics' institutions which have not libraries attached to them?—I think not.

222. Colonel *Mure.*] You mentioned that it was customary in the societies in your own district to lend out their publications; is there any restriction upon that being done?—They lend them only to their own members.

223. Is there no limit to the works which the members are allowed to take out?—There are some, but very few. Sometimes works of reference are excepted, and sometimes works of art.

224. Probably you would include all Parliamentary Papers under the category of those which were not permitted to be taken out?—It might, perhaps, be desirable that they should not be permitted to be taken out, except on a special vote of the Committee. I think, however, it would not be desirable to lay down an absolute rule that they should never be taken out; there might be some individuals, some magistrate, or other person of importance, to whom it might be a very great convenience indeed to have the book at his own house, or at the court-house.

225. *Chairman.*] Regulations of that sort, you probably think, may be safely left to the managing committees?—I think they may.

226. Mr. *Michell.*] A case of this sort might occur, that in county towns, where assizes are held, the magistrates or counsel, or even the judges, might send for books and papers of reference containing statistics which they might require. Of course they would be allowed in such cases to take them out?—I have not a doubt there would never be any practical difficulty in that being done by application to the president or other officers; there is no disposition to be restrictive in such matters.

227. If the House laid down a positive rule that they were never to be taken out, they never could be under any circumstances?—I think it might be safely left to the discretion of the managing body.

228. Mr. *Headlam.*] You would probably place them in the same position as other works of reference, which are now not allowed generally to be taken out, but are, upon all occasions, at the disposal of members who may not be able to consult them in the building itself?—I am not sure that I should be of opinion that they ought not to be allowed to circulate; I do not see why they should not. Perhaps for a certain time they ought not to be allowed to circulate. The rule in our own institution is, that each new book remains on the table for a month before it is allowed to be circulated at all; then after that it is a great convenience that it should be allowed to circulate.

229. Colonel *Mure.*] It has been suggested that the Papers distributed should be in some degree vested in the body, under the condition that they should not under any circumstances be alienated during the existence of the association, and that if the association should be broken up, those Papers should be in all cases restored to Parliament. If they were allowed to be freely circulated, there would be some risk probably of many of them being lost; might not one of those regulations, therefore, be found to interfere with the other?—You must calculate upon their being worn and dirtied; I do not think it would be at all worth the while of Parliament to insist upon the return of such Papers, because I think they

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would be pure lumber after a certain length of time, and the restriction would be a dead letter. But I conceive the advantage of allowing them to circulate is very great. Many persons could read them at their own houses, who could not possibly spare time to read them at a public institution. I think you would do most wisely to leave that to the committees of the institutions themselves; they have regulations with regard to their own books, for the preservation of their books, and for giving the greatest amount of advantage to the greatest number of the members. For a certain length of time, for the general convenience of the members, they keep a book on the table of the institution; then it is found a greater convenience to allow it to circulate; and I think, having made these Papers the property of the institutions, you might safely entrust them to the management of those institutions, leaving them to decide in what way they will do the greatest amount of good.

230. You are not favourable to any special reservation being made with regard to Parliamentary Papers, which would not be embodied in the rules of the society with respect to other useful or valuable works, either as to the disposal of them during the time the society exists, or as to any condition that they should be restored or otherwise distributed at the discretion of Parliament, assuming the society to be broken up?—I think it is most reasonable that the House of Commons should require that they should not be sold or alienated, at least, for a certain length of time; but, as is well known, after a certain length of time their value, generally speaking, very considerably diminishes. The value of some books does not very materially diminish; for instance, the Tables of Revenue, Commerce, and Population, would form a standard work, but the value of a considerable number of the publications of Parliament does greatly diminish; some are of very little value indeed six months after they are published, though they are of very great value at the time. I conceive it would be desirable that some regulations to prevent any improper use of such works, such as converting them into money, should be adopted. Beyond that I do not think it is necessary that the Committee of the House of Commons should recommend much restriction; I think it may be safely left to the general interest of the institution.

231. Assuming the institution to be broken up, as occasionally happens, from a deficiency of funds, or other causes, and a sale of their property to take place, would you think it desirable that any exception should be made in favour of Parliamentary Papers?—I have before said, that in strictness I think such an exception would be perfectly proper; but as a practical question I do not think it would be at all worth while to adopt it.

232. Mr. *Walter*.] Is there a general discretionary power lodged in the committees of mechanics' institutions with regard to binding books?—Yes.

233. That would probably apply to the case of Parliamentary Papers, or would you require that they should be bound?—I think it would not be desirable to require them to be bound; it is one of those conditions which might be rather onerous, and if it were to apply to all the Papers received, it would be very onerous.

234. *Chairman*.] The decision on that subject might safely be left to the institution itself?—Yes, I think it might. Each committee would consider whether the books were of permanent value, and ought to be preserved for 20 or 30 years, such as the Tables of Revenue, Commerce, and Population, and works of that class. There are others, such as Mining Reports, Reports concerning the expedition in search of Sir John Franklin, which it would be of no use to bind. I think if you multiply the restrictions, it will tend to interfere with the usefulness of that which you are intending to do.

235. Colonel *Mure*.] When you speak of Reports on such subjects as you have referred to in the course of your evidence, do you include, with the Reports of Committees, the evidence taken before them, or do you confine yourself to the ultimate Reports of such Committees?—I should say generally the evidence should be included, inasmuch as it usually accompanies the Report; and sometimes evidence is taken where there is no report from the Committee of their opinion.

Lunæ, 21° *die Februarii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tufnell.	Mr. Drummond.
Mr. Brotherton.	Colonel Mure.
Sir R. H. Inglis.	Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. Michell.	Mr. Cumming Bruce.
Mr. Stirling.	Mr. Byng.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY TUFNELL, IN THE CHAIR.

Harry Chester, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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236. *Chairman.*] HOW long have you been employed under the Committee of the Privy Council for Education?—From its establishment in April 1839.

237. Are you also President of the Literary and Scientific Institution of Highgate?—I am. I was one of its founders.

238. Are you also Chairman of the Institutes Committee of the Society of Arts?—I am.

239. In the month of May last year there was a conference held at the Society of Arts by the delegates from different literary institutions and mechanics' institutes throughout the kingdom?—Yes.

240. Did you take considerable part in originating that conference?—I was the person who originally proposed that this union of institutes in connexion with the Society should take place; and as Chairman of the Committee it fell to my lot to make a great part of the arrangements for that conference.

241. Is that Committee still sitting?—It is.

242. At that conference the subject of distributing Parliamentary Reports to different mechanics' institutes and literary institutions was discussed?—It was.

243. In consequence of that have you had any means of knowing whether an interest has been felt in the subject on the part of different literary institutions?—Yes. Our Committee put ourselves into communication with all the institutions throughout the country upon that subject, and we have received a great many replies from them, unanimously expressing their desire that the Parliamentary Papers should be distributed to them; and I believe that a large number of petitions have been presented to both Houses of Parliament praying that such distribution may take place.

244. Are you individually of opinion that it would contribute to the prosperity and stability of those institutions if they were thus recognized by Parliament by distributing to them a selection of the Parliamentary Papers?—Yes; but the grounds upon which I recommend it would be rather the promotion of the public interest than the benefit of the institutions themselves. I do not wish to have them made privileged bodies; but I conceive that it would facilitate legislation, and promote the public interest, if Parliamentary documents on important public subjects could be systematically distributed throughout the country; and it seems to me that those institutions are bodies to which they might with great advantage be sent.

245. Supposing any scheme of this sort were carried into execution, you would not deem it advisable to distribute the whole of the Parliamentary Papers?—No, I think it would be expedient to make a selection of the Papers.

246. To whom do you think the duty of making that selection might be entrusted?—I find some difficulty in offering a suggestion upon that subject, because I am not familiar with the business of Parliament; but as the Printing Committee of the House of Commons exercises some power over the printing of Papers, the same body might exercise the power of selecting the Papers.

247. You do not think it would be advisable to leave the selection to the institutes themselves?—Only as far as this, that, if in the Journal of the Society of Arts, which is sent weekly to all the institutions in union with it, the list of the Papers distributed and sent to Members of Parliament should be continued to be published as it is now, then any institution which desired to have any Parliamentary

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mentary Paper which had not been determined to be distributed by the Committee, might, on application, receive that Paper.

248. Is a list of all the Parliamentary Papers published weekly in the journal?—Yes, the Society of Arts publishes a weekly journal, which has been enlarged mainly in consequence of the union which has been formed with those institutions in the country; and it is now called the "Journal of the Society of Arts and of the Institutions in Union." That journal publishes a list of all the Parliamentary Papers, and in that list the secretary or any member of an institution would see what Papers had been printed which had not been sent, and on application might be allowed to have those Papers.

249. That list is copied from the Votes of the House?—No doubt it is.

250. Are you aware whether the greater proportion of these institutions have rooms in which they could accommodate so great an addition to their library?—I should say that nearly all of them have rooms held with more or less permanence; they have very commonly news-rooms and libraries.

251. Have you ever considered what proportion of the Parliamentary Papers it would be advisable to distribute to these institutions?—I have not.

252. You are aware that a list is published every year of all the Reports and other Parliamentary Papers?—Yes, and I think it would not be very difficult to select from the list any Papers that related to subjects of general interest, and particularly to any of those subjects with which it was necessary for the public to deal; questions of social progress upon which it is important that the public mind should be informed. I have been very desirous that the institutions should be led to discuss, not political questions but, questions of social law and political economy in their theatres; for example, the question of the decimalization of money, weights and measures. Any one who desires to have improved legislation upon such a subject as that, finds it extremely difficult to move the public mind; the progress of legislation would be very much facilitated if such a subject could be previously discussed in the lecture-rooms of those institutions. It is not at all a matter of party contest, but of great importance to the people. Then there are the Papers upon questions affecting public health and education. We find that the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education are very much sought after by those institutions; the Committee of Council has been in the habit of distributing them, when asked for, to the institutions; and we sent them last year to all the institutions in union with the Society of Arts. There are also the Reports of the Irish Commissioners of Education, of which two volumes have been recently published. The second volume is particularly interesting; it contains information which would be very useful in this country; information of a practical description, particularly on the subject of industrial schools, about which the public mind very much wants to be informed; and, if those Reports could be sent about the country, I think they would produce a useful result. Of course every man who has had any experience of the distribution of information must be prepared to expect that a great deal of the information sent will be wasted. But a great amount of it is not wasted, but does turn to profit in the long run. I have no doubt that of the Minutes which the Committee of Council send out (sometimes as many as 13,000 copies a year), some may be wasted; but the regulations under which they are distributed limit them to those who have a direct interest in their contents, and we have proofs that they are extensively read and turned to account.

253. You said that the Minutes of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education are distributed to a number of those institutions. Have you any means of knowing whether they are much appreciated?—We frequently have letters at the Council-office thanking us for sending them, and saying that they have been found of great use; and sometimes one institution, which has not had a particular volume, will ascertain from another, which has had it, that there is such a volume, and will write to us and say, "We think it would be of use to have the book if you will be so good as to send it;" and we always do send it, if not out of print. On receiving an application through the Society of Arts last year that all the volumes might be sent to the institutions in the union, we sent all such as could be spared. We also received an application from the Yorkshire Union of Provincial Institutions, containing about 120 institutions which were desirous of getting them; and we also complied with that request.

254. The Reports of the Committee of Council on Education consist generally of about two volumes?—Generally three volumes octavo; two on Normal and Elementary

Elementary Schools, and one on Workhouse Schools, are presented to Parliament in each Session. *H. Chester*, Esq. 21 February 1853

255. They contain reports of different schools?—They contain all the minutes, of a general character, that have been passed in the year; statistics showing the mode in which the grants have been distributed; and the reports of the inspectors. There is a great deal of statistical information which is interesting, and there is a still larger amount of very valuable practical information. The reports of the inspectors exhibit the results of the grants, the general progress of education, the progress of particular schools, the defects and benefits of particular plans, and suggestions for the improvement of schools; those reports are very much sought after indeed. We send them regularly to the schools under inspection, about 5,500; to schoolmasters and schoolmistresses holding certificates from the Committee of Council, nearly 1,700. This accounts for 7,200 copies. We also send them to the dignitaries of the Church, and to the heads of the other religious bodies; to the public societies promoting education in Great Britain, and to other persons known zealously to promote it. We are obliged every year to refuse many hundreds of applications. We send the volume on Workhouse Schools, of which 3,000 copies are printed, to the certificated teachers of those schools; to the chairmen of boards of guardians; the clerks and chaplains of unions.

256. If they are so bulky every year, would it not be advisable to compress that valuable information into one volume instead of two?—The two volumes relating to Normal and Elementary Schools, after presentation to Parliament, have of late years been compressed into one volume (1,000 copies of which are provided), for distribution to the public. We should find it very difficult to make a further reduction, because we have already limited the reports of the inspectors as much as possible. We require them to confine their reports within a smaller compass than they used to do; but the number of inspectors is very much increased, and it would be very difficult to cut down the reports further, because each locality feels great interest in its own school, and wants the report upon it, to see what progress the school has made; each inspector wishes to have his say, making observations upon the past and suggestions for the future.

257. By what means do you distribute those Reports?—We send them by post; we frank them all.

258. Then those who receive them pay nothing for them?—They pay nothing; I do not think the institutions would be very grateful to Parliament for the transmission of these Papers if they had to pay the postage, which would be somewhat heavy. I think that any distribution that took place should be entirely gratuitous.

259. You distribute 13,000 copies at the rate of a penny for four ounces?—The distribution by the post does not really cost the country anything. If they are sent by other modes of transmission, say as parcels by a railway company, then they cause actual payment; but when they are sent by post by a Government office, the payment is merely nominal. They come in upon two sides of the Treasury accounts, and there is no real cost to the country.

260. Is it your opinion that these institutions would object to receive a selection from the Parliamentary Reports if they had to pay for the carriage of them, letters by post or as parcels?—I think they would object to receiving them as parcels. I am not prepared to say positively that they would object to receive them, but they would not be so acceptable in that case, because these institutions almost all labour under difficulties from the want of funds. There are very few that are not suffering severely from that want; and, from personal experience, I know that it is extremely difficult to provide the necessary amount of books and lectures, and other advantages for the members and the associates of institutions.

261. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Do not you conceive it to be important that they should receive the Parliamentary Papers early after their publication?—Certainly; that would be another reason for sending them by post.

262. *Chairman.*] You are aware that the great bulk of the Parliamentary Reports are generally printed and delivered together, some time after the Session is ended?—Yes.

263. And therefore they might be sent all together at once?—Yes.

264. But you think that the Papers of public interest which come out during the Session, such as the Returns from the Board of Trade, and from the General

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Register Office, if sent at all, should be sent as soon as they are issued?—Clearly so. The value of them would be greatly diminished if they were delayed. It might be worth consideration, whether all public departments which are in the habit of placing their documents before Parliament should not themselves send those documents to those institutions; for instance, the Privy Council. I do not know why the Committee of Council should not continue to send its own volumes of Minutes to these institutions, and the Board of Trade also, and the Board of Health also. For example, there is a Report from Captain Hay, one of the Commissioners of Police, on the subject of lodging-houses, a most interesting document; and it would be of the greatest possible service to have that document circulated throughout the country, and thoroughly well ventilated and discussed in the institutions. I have taken a great deal of interest in such subjects as those. We have had them discussed in the institution at Highgate. Mr. Grainger, the Inspector of the Board of Health, lives at Highgate; he has given us several lectures upon the subject. We found it difficult to get people to believe that the Reports put out by the Board of Health are not over-coloured; they think that the officers of the Board of Health have made a highly-coloured representation of the facts. But here comes out a document of a most grave, sedate, and business-like character, from the Commissioners of Police, containing evidence of serjeants of police, who are not at all imaginative men, and people of that class of life whose evidence upon this subject is necessarily very good and trustworthy; and if that document could be distributed throughout the country, I have no doubt it would be very useful.

265. Are you aware what is the number of mechanics' institutions and literary institutions in the United Kingdom?—I believe there are about 750; I do not know absolutely; we were led to suppose, when we commenced the work of the union, that the number was very much higher; but from our correspondence we think there are not above 750 in real working condition; of course this number does not include the Royal Society and the Agricultural Society, and those great institutions, but such as are commonly spoken of as literary and scientific institutions and mechanics' institutes.

266. Supposing it should be considered necessary to limit, in the first instance, the number of institutions to which those Reports should be distributed, could you suggest any line that would be drawn for that purpose?—I am afraid that I cannot suggest any line that would not be open to objection; I think institutions would be jealous of having these documents sent to one and not to another; they are naturally rather jealous bodies, and I doubt whether bad feeling would not be engendered by making a selection. Some limitation would naturally be made by some few of them having no rooms, and some might not desire to have these Papers; but I should think you would find that from 350 to 400 would wish to have them. It would be rather a delicate matter to distinguish between different institutions in towns where there are more than one, and where, perhaps, it is not for the real interest of the institutions that there should be more than one. For instance, I was last winter at Hastings, and I found there a literary and scientific institution, an athenæum, and a mechanics' institute; and in St. Leonard's, which joins Hastings, there was another institution of the same kind; probably one institution would be quite sufficient for each of those two towns; but the less real want there is of more than one, the greater the jealousy between the two; because it has probably been some party feeling which has occasioned two institutions to arise; and, if at such places you were to send the Papers to one institution only out of two or three or four, I need not say that a good deal of jealousy would be felt.

267. You would not propose that they should be sent to institutions with a very limited number of members?—No, not to very small ones; they probably would not wish to have them. They probably have not rooms in which to receive the volumes.

268. I have a Return which I believe to be correct, which states that there are 332 institutions, having less than 100 members?—I should not have thought that the number was so great as that.

269. In drawing a line of distinction as to the institutions to which these Papers should be sent, would not the number of members be as safe a criterion as any?—I should not like to have the line drawn so high as 100 members; very few institutions indeed will open with 100 members; and in many places it is hard work to keep up that number. I think if you took 50 as the number, perhaps

perhaps that might answer the purpose. In some places the institutions are open almost exclusively to the members, and then, of course, the members will be numerous in proportion to the number that use the institution. In other places there are very few members, but they have to manage all the business, and to provide amusements and lectures for a large number of persons who are not members, but pay each time for everything they receive.

270. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] From your long experience in the Council-office, and from your present connexion with the Society of Arts, are you able to state to the Committee what proportion of the mechanics' institutes, or other similar associations to which the attention of the Committee is now directed, do or do not possess any habitation or any rooms belonging to themselves, in which they could safely deposit any Parliamentary or other papers which might be given to them?—Very nearly the whole of them.

271–3. In one of the last questions addressed to you by the Chairman, you were requested to state whether there be or be not any line of distinction that you would draw between those institutions which, in your judgment, might be entitled to receive Papers from the nation, and those which are not so entitled. Would you consider that the possession of a place in which they could safely deposit these Parliamentary and other papers so granted would or would not be a safe ground of distinction?—Certainly; but I understood the question of the Chairman to relate to drawing a distinction not merely between institutions that have the means of receiving these Papers and institutions that have not such means, but between large and small institutions, having such means. If they have not got proper room, they should not have the Papers

274. You would consider that it was a preliminary requisite that the party applying should present to the Parliamentary inspector a place of safe deposit for the Papers which might be granted?—Certainly, that the party should state that they have such a place.

275. Your object would be to secure Papers sent in 1853 for the use of the same or other parties in 1854?—Certainly.

276. In other words, that they should not be sold for waste paper at the close of the Session?—Certainly.

277. With respect to numbers, can you state at all what is the largest number which any institute or society of the kind can count among its members?—The Leeds Mechanics' Institution and Literary Society has upwards of 2,000; Manchester Mechanics' Institution, upwards of 1,600; Glasgow Mechanics' Institution, nearly 1,300; Bristol Athenæum, Devonport Mechanics' Institute, Greenwich Useful Knowledge Society, and Nottingham Mechanics' Institute, each upwards of 1,000.

278. When you distributed 10,000 in the former instance, and 5,000 in the present instance, of the Papers in the Council-office, what security do you take that such Papers are really deposited in the custody of the secretary or president of the institution to which they are sent?—We do not take any special security; we merely send them, and they become part of the property of the institution; we take for granted that the institution acquiring that property will preserve it, as it preserves all its other papers and books.

279. In the case of books distributed by another body, every copy is marked as distributed to such and such an institution; do the institutions to which you send these books receive them marked?—Sometimes they are not marked, on account of the great pressure of business; when there is time they are marked.

280. "Sent to the Mechanics' Institute at Devonport," or "to the Mechanics' Institute at Greenwich"?—Yes, words to that effect.

281. Can you state whether in your own Highgate Institution, or in any other institution with which you are acquainted, the books and papers are in circulation; or whether any party desiring to consult them and benefit by them, must go to any particular locality in order to do so?—In most of the institutions; and in the one at Highgate, the library is both for circulation and for reference, there is a reading-room, and the library with all the books is kept under the charge of the librarian; any member or associate of the institution is entitled to take out a certain number of those books at one time; and all the books are marked and stamped on the binding and in different parts of the work itself, with the title of the institution, so that they can be immediately recognized. The circulation of the books is very large; the books are much more read at the houses of the people than they are in the reading-room of the institution.

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282. Have you in your institution a catalogue of the books which are so in circulation?—Yes.

283. Can you state whether the larger portion of the books distributed last year have or have not been in circulation?—The circulation of books in the year 1852 at Highgate was as follows:—History, voyages, travels, and biography, 1,504 volumes; poetry and tales, 2,108; periodicals, magazines and reviews, 1,037; making together 4,649 volumes circulated in the year among 226 subscribers.

284. What is the total number of volumes in the library?—Two thousand eight hundred and twelve at the close of 1852.

285. Are the Committee to understand, from the list which you have given of books of history and so forth, that there is any limitation in your collection to books of secular science or learning, or are books of divinity also included in the library?—Books of divinity are included. We have a rule, which is a very common rule in all these institutions, that political or theological controversy shall be strictly excluded from the institution; and it has been thought advisable that theological books of a strong controversial character should not be admitted into the library; but the committee can accept or purchase theological books as well as any others. Of course they exercise considerable discretion as to what they shall buy, and they do not buy books of a strong controversial character.

286. But devotional works are not excluded by any rule of your society?—No, they are not.

287. And in fact, they are not excluded?—No; we have Hooker and Jeremy Taylor, and various other standard theological works; and at the same time books of a very different character; books belonging to other religious bodies than those of the Church of England.

288. Mr. *Walter*.] Can you state what is about the average yearly subscription to the different institutions in the country?—The subscription greatly varies. We have three classes of subscribers at Highgate. We have members who pay a guinea a year, and we have associates of the first class and associates of the second class. Associates of the first class pay half a guinea a year, and associates of the second class pay five shillings.

289. Have the associates equal access to the privileges of the institution with the members?—They have equal access to all the advantages of the institution, but not to the government. The government of the institution is confined to the members.

290. Colonel *Mure*.] With reference to the suggestion which has been made, of taking the number of members as the criterion of the admissibility of these institutions to the privilege of receiving the Parliamentary Papers, you said that you thought 100 would be too high a number to take as the limit; but you did not say whether you thought that taking numbers at all was a good criterion in itself?—I think if it is necessary to take some one point as a determining point, the number would be perhaps the best point that could be taken; but I suggest that it would be better to take into consideration the state and character of the institutions, and that the person who had the duty of discrimination should form his judgment upon the matter.

291. Would not that involve a very delicate investigation, which it would be hardly practicable for the committee upon whom the determination of the question might be devolved to carry into effect?—It would involve a certain amount of trouble; but a printed form would be easily read.

292. You would propose that they should judge of the institutes according to the statements which they gave of their various capacities, both with regard to numbers and in other respects?—Yes; I would not suggest any particular qualification or restriction, for example, confining it to institutions in union with the Society of Arts, or in union with any other society. I think it is very desirable to give as free scope as possible to these institutions, and that it would be injurious if it were made to depend upon the possession of something which is not an essential part of the institution; otherwise, it would save a Committee of the House of Commons a great deal of trouble if a list were given by certain constituted public bodies; but I think that would be objectionable, and that the evil of sending the Papers to a few institutions where they were not wanted, would be very trifling; they could do no harm; it would be merely the loss of a few shillings per annum.

293. You have stated that a considerable number of these institutions are very

very much in want of funds, I infer from that, that a large proportion of them are not self-supporting, that is to say, that the annual subscriptions, independently of extraneous support, would not cover the expenses?—They have no extraneous support. What I meant was, that it is difficult in most localities to get a sufficient number of subscribers to provide efficiently for the wants of the institution, to provide a sufficient amount of return to the members for their subscriptions; they very seldom have anything in the shape of endowment; except in Ireland, they have no grant from any public fund.

294. In the case of a hundred members subscribing a guinea a year a piece, would that be at all adequate to the wants of the institution?—That is difficult to answer; it depends so much upon the circumstances of the institution, whether they have a rent to pay, and whether the population in the locality is of such a character as to be able and willing to pay for admission to lectures. We find at Highgate, that with 226 members, as we have now, it is very difficult indeed to carry on our work in the vigorous way that we should like to do it, but we are perhaps more flourishing now than we ever have been before.

295. Do you not think that in the first instance, as the proposal of distributing Parliamentary Papers to these institutions is a new thing, the safest and easiest way might be to take numbers as the criterion of the admission of institutions to this privilege, and afterwards to modify that plan in such a way as further experience might show to be advisable?—That certainly would be an easy way; it would be a way that would raise no invidious distinction; and it might have this good result, that the governors of an institution, when a number of persons were desirous to have the Parliamentary Papers, would be able to say to the people in the neighbourhood, "Now, if half a dozen or a dozen others will join us, we shall be able to get the Parliamentary Papers." I was merely anxious that, if the principle of number be adopted, it should not be placed too high, so that many institutions should be excluded; of course, the smaller the number of members, the greater, it may be presumed, is their need of assistance.

296. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Might it not tend to get rid of some of those extra and unnecessary institutions which you have spoken of, such as those at Hastings?—It might possibly have that tendency; it is of course desirable for such institutions to combine, but there are probably local causes which prevent it.

297. Mr. *Bruce.*] Might it not be safely left, in some degree, to the discretion of the parties to whom Parliament should entrust the duty of making the selection of the Papers to be distributed?—I think so; I think at least they might have the power of making exceptions.

298. Colonel *Mure.*] You are asked as to the mode in which these institutions are accommodated with respect to premises; is it, generally speaking, the rule of all these bodies, and is it their anxiety to have a building of their own, or are there many respectable institutions which are satisfied with hired apartments?—It is generally considered very important indeed to have a building of their own; but the difficulty about funds is serious; the legal difficulties of obtaining the transfer of land are also very great; sometimes convenient sites cannot be obtained, or parties cannot grant leases; there is very great difficulty in finding persons willing to become permanently responsible. You cannot get individuals to bind themselves to be permanent trustees of property in localities in which they may have only a transitory interest.

299. Mr. *Stirling.*] Are there not instances in some of the smaller towns in which these institutions are sufficiently flourishing to own their own premises?—There are at the present moment several which I know are engaged in endeavouring to provide permanent buildings; for instance, at St. Leonard's they have recently had an exhibition in connexion with their institution, with the view of obtaining funds to provide a permanent building.

300. Colonel *Mure.*] As a general rule, do you consider that institutions which have permanent accommodations which are their own property, are more respectable and influential than those which are contented with hiring buildings?—I should not say that there is much difference in that respect; there is a considerable difference in the facility with which they carry on their business when the building is their own, because then, of course, they are relieved of rent. I know that with respect to the large institution at Islington, the honorary secretary told me a little time ago that they never succeeded well till they got a building of their own; since that time they have been relieved of the pay-

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ment of rent, and they have been able to carry on their business with much greater facility.

301. You would not approve of taking the circumstance of the institution having or not having permanent accommodation belonging to itself, as a test or criterion, in common with others, of its being entitled to the benefits of this distribution of Parliamentary Papers?—No, I should not do that; the body itself may be safely trusted to make the best arrangements for the preservation of their own property; and if those documents were sent to them they would become part of their property, and be subject to their laws for the preservation of their library as a whole, because these books will form part of the library.

302. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Has the Society of Arts been in communication with most of the mechanics' institutions in the kingdom?—The Society of Arts has been in communication with them all upon the subject of the union of institutions.

303. Supposing that the Printing Committee, or the Library Committee of the House of Commons, appointed a person to make a selection of such Parliamentary printed Papers as might usefully be distributed, do you think it would be desirable that the institution should have the recommendation of the Society of Arts, or of some other body, as being proper institutions for receiving those Papers?—I think it might be convenient that the officer who is charged with the distribution should be directed to distribute in every case to those institutions which are recommended by the Society of Arts, the Society of Arts undertaking to sift the applications; but I do not think it would be desirable to limit the distribution to those institutions. Other institutions would say, Why should we be compelled to go into union with the Society of Arts?

304. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do you think that the Committee of the Society of Arts would undertake the distribution to those institutions which were in union with the Society?—Not at their own expense; they have no means of franking. The public departments and the Houses of Parliament could send the documents freely by post.

305. Mr. *Michell.*] Would it not be desirable that before a grant is made to any institution, a plan of the building, showing its size, should be sent up, so that it may be seen that there is sufficient room for those books to be properly taken care of?—I think it would be sufficient to have the question answered by the institution itself. The institution could have no object in accumulating quantities of papers that could not be provided for. I think the institutions would be very jealous of anything like unnecessary interference.

306. Mr. *Fortescue.*] What would you say of such a plan of distribution as this: Supposing a certain number of Papers were assigned to the different institutions, varying according to the size of the institutions, a larger number of Papers being assigned to the greater institutions in the large towns, and a smaller number to the smaller ones; that a list of the publications should be sent to each, and then, that permission should be given to the institutions to apply for all which they chose out of the number so assigned?—I think there would be considerable trouble attendant upon any plan of making them apply. I do not mean merely trouble to the institutions themselves, because if they were not willing to take a little trouble, it would not be desirable to give them the documents; but it would be a troublesome thing to the officer charged with the distribution. A simpler thing would be to act upon the broad principle, that it it is expedient to distribute information of great public interest; and, therefore, a selection of these Parliamentary documents should be sent to all institutions having a certain number of members, and to such exceptional ones as the officers charged with the distribution might think fit.

307. Might not one publication or class of publications be read with advantage in one town, which would be of no use in another?—Certainly.

308. Would not such a plan meet that difficulty?—Those Papers that were not of general interest would not be put upon the general list for distribution. For instance, a Paper connected with any particular branch of industry in a particular locality, such as a fishery in a particular part of Ireland, would not be of general interest; but I would send it to the institutions where it would be of interest.

309. Mr. *Michell.*] Might it not be of interest also in other neighbourhoods where fisheries were carried on?—I think so.

310. Would not sending these Papers probably tend to increase the funds of the

the different institutions which are now in difficulties, by causing more subscribers to join them?—Yes, it might have that effect.

311. Has not there been a great addition to the number of institutions in union with the Society of Arts since this subject has been mooted?—There certainly has; but I am not able to say that it has been in consequence of the mooting of this question. The proposals for union were first made to the institutions in the spring of last year, and, since the conference in May, last year, every week institutions have been coming into the union.

312. Can you give the number which have come into the union since that time?—The number is 255, up to this time.

313. You are aware that there has been great difficulty in introducing the regulations of the Board of Health in some places. Are you of opinion that if these Parliamentary Papers were circulated it would tend greatly to do away with that feeling of opposition which there now is in some towns against the introduction of those regulations?—I have no doubt it would have a very beneficial effect, particularly if a suggestion which I made to the Society of Arts were adopted, that those institutions should be moved to discuss these subjects in their theatres.

314. If the number of members were adopted as the criterion of admissibility to this privilege, what would, in your opinion, be the proper limit as to number, to entitle one of those institutions to receive the Papers?—I should think 50 or 60 members. If there were a liberal power of exception made, it might be put higher than that.

315. Do you think it would be advisable to have those Papers deposited at some place in the county, where the magistrates of the county could have easy access to them?—As a magistrate, I should say that the magistrates should and generally do subscribe to the institutions in their neighbourhoods.

316. Supposing the magistrates were allowed to have access to them without being subscribers?—I think that would be highly objectionable; the institutions would not like to have persons in authority come in without payment. It would soon be known that these Papers were to be had there, and that might be the means of inducing magistrates, and other persons requiring to consult those documents, to subscribe to those institutions.

317. Mr. *Brotherton.*] As Parliamentary Papers are so cheap now, if a magistrate wishes to have them, he can very easily obtain them?—Yes, but a magistrate might not wish to have all these Papers in his house, though he might occasionally wish to consult them. With regard to the magistrates having access to them at the institutions, I think that this could only be by special arrangement between the institution and the magistrates in any particular neighbourhood; it would not be desirable to have that attached as a compulsory condition to the gift. With reference to the bindings of these books, the ordinary blue cover, of course, does not recommend the book so much as a little better binding does: and for many years in the Council-office, till the last two years, we had all our volumes for distribution bound simply in brown cloth, such as books of that kind are generally bound in. In the last two years we have distributed them in their ordinary blue covers; the difference in the expense is not great. But they are not nearly so acceptable in that shape; and it might be worth considering whether the little additional expense of binding them in brown cloth might not render them much more useful, by causing them to be more valued and read, and so better obtain the object which Parliament has in distributing them.

318. *Chairman.*] You think it would be objectionable to annex, as a condition to the reception of these Parliamentary Papers, that they should be accessible to any except members of the institution?—I think it would be objectionable to annex that condition to them. I would only give them where there was a probability that they would be taken care of, and properly used; and having given them, I would attach no condition to the gift.

319. Would you not attach a condition that in case of the dissolution of the Society, they should not be sold as part of the effects of the institution?—There is a general rule that all donations should be returned to the donors in case of the dissolution of the institution. It is to be hoped that those institutions will not be very frequently dissolved. After these volumes have been in use a number of years it would not be very important what became of them; and I do not think it would be expedient to attach any condition in reference to them,

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but I would rather let them be sold or dealt with as the laws of the institution might direct.

320. Mr. *Walter.*] In the case of a small institution where the number of members did not exceed 50 or 60, would you take any security against the falling off of the members, otherwise they might dwindle down to almost nothing, and the secretary and two of his friends might apply in the name of a non-existing society for these Parliamentary Papers?—I think the proper way to look at this proposal is, that it is not to be for the benefit of the institutions, but for the public benefit, that it is very desirable that information of this character should be widely distributed, and that this is a convenient means of distribution. Although it has been asked as a boon, I do not think it should be looked upon as a boon to the institutions, it is for the public advantage to take these means of making generally known the information which is collected at the public cost.

321. Colonel *Mure.*] Might it not tend to increase the value of these documents in the estimation of the members of those provincial societies if some little restriction were placed upon the disposal of them, which should not be placed upon the disposal of other works, as coming from the Government, and as relating to important national objects; might not that tend to increase the respect which those communities would have for the documents?—It is possible that that might the case; but I do not see what restriction could be imposed that would not be inconvenient, and yet produce the result aimed at.

322. You mentioned that in your library, at Highgate, the works are both used in the institution, and are also freely circulated amongst the members; does that remark apply to the whole of the works?—It now applies to the whole of the works; we began by excepting certain volumes, and saying that such and such works, as books of reference, were not to be taken out of the library; but experience led us to believe that the more facilities we afforded for taking them to the homes of the members, the greater would be the use of the books; therefore at present we have no such restriction whatever, except as to periodical works; they are confined to the library the first week after they are issued; after that they are put into circulation. It is thought that, though it is very important to have reading-rooms where persons of different classes of society may sit and read books and papers, it is still better that they should be able to take them to their own homes, that their families may get the benefit of them, and that domestic habits may be cultivated.

323. You do not think it would be advisable to place the Parliamentary Papers, which it is proposed to give to these institutions, under any restrictions which were not common to the other books belonging to the institution?—No; the object is to have them read.

324. If any important Parliamentary Paper, while being circulated in that way, was lost, should not there be some obligation on the part of the institution to replace it?—The institution generally takes care to make some regulation of that kind.

325. But that is not very easy in case of an important Parliamentary Paper, of which only a limited number of copies has been published, and which is not therefore to be had like a book of which there are successive editions in the market?—All books are liable to be out of print, but Parliamentary Papers would not be more liable to be lost than other books; and for the object of providing against so very uncertain a contingency as the losing of one of those volumes, without the power of replacing it, it would scarcely be worth the risk of putting such a restriction upon a book as would cause it to be less read; for example, if I had occasion to read upon any subject treated upon in any Parliamentary Paper, I might not have the means of obtaining it; I should then go to an institution and get that paper; and if I could take it to my own house, and there make my notes and extracts, I should turn it to better account than if I were obliged to read it at the institution. All these institutions have laws for the regulation of their library; the books are only to be kept out a certain time, and there are fines for not returning them; the members, for their own security and advantage, make regulations to ensure the rapid circulation of the books; that may be safely left to their own self-interest.

326. Mr. *Michell.*] Where there is a librarian, he generally looks after the safe return of the books?—Yes.

327. Would it be necessary to have any restriction as to whether there be a paid librarian or not?—I think not; the librarian generally is paid.

328. *Chairman.*] I understand your feeling to be this: that as this is an experiment, it might as well at first be carried into execution on a moderate scale?—Yes.

329. You think that if too large a number of Papers were distributed at first, or if they were distributed to too many small societies, there might be some risk that they might be neglected and not be properly appreciated?—Yes, that is my opinion.

330. You would think it desirable to take care at first not to glut the appetite for this Parliamentary literature?—Certainly; it would be very easy to extend it afterwards.

331. Mr. *Bruce.*] In order to provide for the case of the diminution of a society in point of numbers, might not some arrangement be made by which every society should give returns of its numbers, and that it should be understood that upon the number of members falling below the amount which might be fixed by Parliament, they should forfeit the privilege of receiving these Papers?—That might be done if thought necessary, but there really is so much jealousy on the part of many of the persons who belong to and manage these institutions, that I think they would not like the idea of making anything like a public return. If that could be avoided, I think that the officer charged with the distribution might, from time to time, make inquiry as to the number of the members, but I would embarrass them as little as possible by asking questions.

332. You think they should be left in as independent a position, and should be interfered with as little as possible?—Yes.

333. Do you think that any restriction of that kind might tend rather to diminish the number of members?—I think it might.

334. Colonel *Mure.*] In speaking of the size of these institutions, you mentioned that there is a very large one at Devonport, comprising 2,000 members. Is it your opinion that one very large institution of that kind in a populous town is more active and beneficial than a certain number of smaller ones, which perhaps may vie and compete with each other?—That is a difficult question; it depends very much upon circumstances. In some towns great interest would be taken in particular subjects, in others very little; and a great deal depends upon individuals. Two or three men of very active minds will give an amount of life to an institution which you can hardly find in many others, perhaps similar in their general character.

335. You do not think that any general rule could be laid down to this effect, that the competition of moderate-sized institutions in a very populous town is preferable to one very large one?—I think not.

336. You were asked whether these institutions might not be permitted to select from a general list of publications, made under Parliamentary authority, such as they themselves would like to have, and not be under the necessity of taking the others, and you answered, that you thought that it would not be expedient that such a power of selection should be given?—My idea is that it is for the public interest that information should be distributed to these bodies; and I should say that it is for Parliament to determine what information it is desirable to distribute, and that information I should send whether that information was wished for or not. But having done that, if any institution desired to have Parliamentary information upon any particular subject, which Parliament had not considered it necessary to send them, I think they ought to be allowed to ask for that, and to have that also.

337. My question did not relate to what they might wish to have beyond what was given to them, but whether they should be obliged under any circumstances to take the whole of the Papers, or not to take any at all?—Of course they would not preserve the Papers if they did not wish to receive them.

338. Would it not be better to allow in some form or other a power of selection to those institutions which, perhaps, have neither the room nor the inclination to take the whole?—I still think that there are some kinds of Parliamentary information which ought to be communicated to them, whether they wish for it or not. There are matters of public importance, with respect to which one mode of cultivating an interest would be by sending information to them upon the subject.

339. It has been suggested that Papers of general interest, which come out during

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during the sitting of Parliament, might be sent down to those institutions at once as they come out: and that at the close of the Session a list might be made out, containing a selection from the whole mass of the Parliamentary Papers of the Session, which might be placed at the disposal of the institutions to whom this privilege was conceded. Might not an arrangement be adopted for distributing all those papers which came out occasionally, and are considered of general interest; and then, when the general list is made out, allowing the different societies to select those that they preferred, and to omit those which they did not desire to have?—That might be done. I believe the Committee sets out with the knowledge that a great number of these institutions do wish to have these Papers, because they have petitioned to be supplied with them.

340. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that the Committee to whom the selection of these Papers might be entrusted, should exercise their judgment in sending particular Reports and Papers to certain localities where they would be particularly interesting?—Certainly.

341. Mr. *Byng.*] Are the libraries or reading-rooms of any of those institutions open to the public?—Not open to the public, only open to the subscribers. There are a few libraries which have been established which are open to the public, but they do not come under the title of literary and scientific institutions.

The Rev. *James Booth*, F.R.S., called in; and Examined.

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342. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are one of the Council of the Royal Society?—I am.

343. And also one of the Council of the Society of Arts?—Yes.

344. I believe you were for some years the President of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool?—Yes.

345. In that capacity you had constant intercourse and communication with various mechanics' institutes and literary institutions?—With some; not with a great number.

346. Are you aware whether any considerable number of those institutions have expressed a great wish for the distribution of Parliamentary Reports?—I have looked over some hundreds of letters from institutions in the country, most of them expressing a strong desire to have the Parliamentary Reports under certain limitations.

347. Under what limitations?—Selections; with a few exceptions, they do not desire the whole.

348. With whom do you think the selection would properly be vested?—I think, unquestionably, with the House of Commons in the first instance, through its Printing Committee; taking advice from such persons as the House might consider it right to call upon to give it.

349. Has the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool a large library?—No, a very small one; but its meetings are held in the rooms of the Literary and Philosophical Institution, which has, I believe, a much better one.

350. Is that accessible to any one except the members of the institution?—Not generally; there is now a public library at Liverpool, which has been recently opened, and which is accessible, I believe, to all.

351. In the libraries of those institutions do they ever take in the Parliamentary Reports?—I am not aware that they do.

352. Are you of opinion that it would be a valuable addition to those libraries in general to have them?—I think it would be a very great advantage on public grounds, in order that the members of the societies should be acquainted with what is being done by the Legislature. I have selected a few letters, out of a very large number of communications which bear upon certain points, an extract from one of which, if the Committee please, I will now read.

353. Will you have the kindness to read them?—This is one from the Mechanics' Institution at Shrewsbury: "Again, the distribution would do good, for many of the young men who join our institution and attend our reading-room, look at the proceedings in Parliament merely as the proceedings of, perhaps, the largest debating society in the kingdom. They read the newspapers, and derive from the debates their views of party and local politics; but they are quite ignorant of the vast amount of work that is done, and facts which are accumulated and arranged on subjects of the greatest interest in the Committee-rooms

rooms of the Houses of Parliament; and therefore, independently of all other considerations, it appears to me that, by a judicious selection and distribution of Parliamentary Papers amongst the institutions, we shall enable our less educated members to have a more intelligent appreciation, not only of the subjects treated of in the Papers themselves, but also of the labour performed by the Legislature, in addition to the ordinary duty of attending the debates, of which many persons are at present ignorant." I think, on public grounds, the country should know what is done in Parliament; that as Parliament has given facilities to the public to learn what is *said* in Parliament, it ought also to give the means of access to know what is *done* in Parliament.

354. Are you of opinion that the selection should at first be very limited?—I am of opinion it should; a great deal depends upon the nature of the Reports. Some Reports would have very little interest whatever; for example, the Reports on Consolidated Annuities in Ireland, or on the Government of Ceylon, would have very little interest for the institutions; while, on the other hand, Reports on such subjects as Public Libraries and Sanitary Reform would be very interesting.

355. Do you think it might be found, that if too many of these Reports and other Papers were circulated, they would be entirely neglected?—I think that is an evil very much over-estimated. Institutions in the country have very erroneous ideas as to the nature of Parliamentary Reports; they have generally got only rubbish from the donors; the good ones have been usually picked out, and the remainder presented to them as gifts; and those Papers are worthless, not merely as regards the subjects themselves, but owing to the length of time that has elapsed since they were discussed; but if the Papers were issued as they came out they would have much greater freshness; they would be on the subjects of the day. We may imagine how little "The Times" would be read in the country news-rooms, if it were sent down only once a quarter, bound up in thick volumes.

356. Do you think that these institutions would object to pay for the carriage of the Parliamentary Reports?—I think they would, if the sum were at all large. In many instances they could not afford it; and, besides, they do not at present comprehend the full value of Parliamentary Papers. I have a letter here from the Secretary of the Devon and Exeter Institution, an extract from which, with the permission of the Committee, I will read: "We have for many years through the kindness of the Clerk Assistant, Mr. William Ley, received the Parliamentary Papers of the House of Commons; they are, however, frequently imperfect, and as it is a gift, not a right, we are debarred from pressing for the yearly completion; and should hail with much satisfaction any arrangement which would secure regularity and completion." Here it appears that they received the Papers as they came out, and therefore they value them accordingly.

357. You think it would increase the value of this gift if a certain selection of the Papers was made and kept up yearly?—Yes, if they were selected as they came out.

358. You think it would be a species of information which would be of essential interest to the majority of those institutions?—Of very great interest if issued at the time the report is made.

359. Supposing a selection should be made in the first instance by a Committee of this House, and that afterwards the institution should be allowed to have any others which they might think would be useful to them, do you think they would object to pay the carriage of those which they themselves selected?—I do not know; but I think it would be a very erroneous principle to leave the selection of the Reports to the institutions themselves; because, even in the case of private individuals who cultivate a particular science or department of literature (taking the most favourable case), they can in general form no clear conception of the value of a book from its title, even on their favourite subject. You would have institutions omitting the most valuable Reports which did not happen to have taking titles. You must have some persons to make a careful examination in order to decide what Reports should be sent. I do not think any one can, on any subject, by merely knowing the title of a book or Paper, form a correct idea as to what the value of the Paper or book may be.

360. As this proposed measure is rather an experiment, would you not consider it advisable to begin at first upon a moderate scale?—Yes, I would send very few Reports at first.

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361. Would you think it advisable to begin with a limited number of institutions?—I think not; because, if you did that, it would excite jealousy amongst those who received no Papers. It would be better to begin upon a limited scale as to the number of books sent, and to send to all, if you send to any.

362. Would it not be better appreciated if the number of institutions to which this gift is made were at first limited, and other institutions with a smaller number of members were to receive it afterwards upon expressing an anxiety for it?—If you give it to some institutions in preference to others, upon the ground of those institutions having a large number of members, then the small institutions will say, "The large institutions are able to pay for their Reports, and they get them free; we, who are poor, get none at all."

363. You conceive that the great value of such a selection would depend upon its being selected by parties competent for the purpose?—Yes.

364. The advantage would not be so much in getting them gratuitously, as in the selection being properly made?—I think it is of great importance that the selection should be properly made. I believe the Parliamentary Papers would, after a time, be much more wanted than they would be at first. Many institutions have an erroneous idea of the nature of Parliamentary Papers; they have received only a portion of those issued, and that not the best.

365. Is the number of mechanics' institutes and literary institutions increasing throughout the country?—I believe so; there are about 250 in union with the Society of Arts. Including the very small ones, there are altogether about 800 literary institutions and reading rooms scattered over the country.

366. Do you think that the recognition of these institutions by Parliament, and the encouragement that they would receive by receiving the Parliamentary Reports, would tend to increase their numbers, and to promote the prosperity of those which exist?—I think so, decidedly.

367. Mr. *Drummond.*] There are some institutions which have many thousand members, and there are some that have not above 100; would you send as many of the Reports to the smaller as to the larger?—I would not; provided you send some Reports to every institution, I do not think it at all necessary or desirable that the same number should be sent to all the institutions.

368. You are acquainted with the Papers that go generally under the name of Parliamentary Papers, and the distinction between Reports and Papers; what sort of Parliamentary documents do you think it most advisable to send to these institutions?—I should say such documents as relate, for example, to social questions, sanitary reform, public libraries, and questions of that sort, in which they would take an interest; reports on coinage, on weights, and measures, and other subjects of a like nature.

369. You said that, probably, people cannot know what is in the Reports till they have read them; would that remark apply, for example, to two Reports lately presented, one upon the Wine Trade, and the other upon Juvenile Offenders?—I could not venture to say that a particular Report should be sent to any institution, till I had examined the Report itself carefully.

370. Do not you think that some person belonging to the Society of Arts might be appointed to examine the Reports, and to send down to the various institutions such as he thought most likely to be interesting?—Yes, that might be done; but perhaps it would be better if it were done by a recommendation of the Printing Committee to the House, and that they should be sent directly from The House of Commons.

371. You have said that, till those Reports were read, no person could tell whether they were worth sending or not. Perhaps you never tried to read through Parliamentary Papers?—I have read several Reports lately. I have recently read through, carefully, the Oxford and Cambridge Commission Reports.

372. Those would be worth sending?—Those would be well worth sending to almost every institution; because they are upon subjects of general interest, and upon which persons in the country are very ignorant. They treat of reforms, which must, I fear, precede any real improvement in the general education of the country.

373. *Chairman.*] Have these institutions generally accommodation for a great additional number of books?—I should think not.

374. Ought there not to be some condition annexed, that the institution to which the Reports were sent should have sufficient room to accommodate them?—It ought to be a condition that they should have sufficient room; and

and also that the Reports so sent should not, on the breaking up of the institution, be sold. The House of Commons should retain the right of property in the Papers, so as to prevent that taking place.

375. Would these Papers be more acceptable if published in octavo than in folio?—Yes. I consider the form in which the Reports are published at present is objectionable; they are published in folio, and they are very unmanageable to read. If they were published in octavo, and the edges cut, and if they were bound in cloth, and numbered consecutively from the beginning to the end of the Session, they would be much more valuable, and much more readable. As they are issued at present they hold out a bonus to the destruction of the Reports, because I believe that Parliamentary Reports fetch the highest price in the waste-paper market. Owing to the goodness of the paper, and to the Reports not being cut, they are worth fully three-pence a pound in their present shape; but if they were published in octavo, and the edges cut, the books would be more readable, and the paper would be comparatively worthless as waste paper. So I have been informed by Mr. Bell, the publisher in Fleet-street.

376. Mr. *Drummond*.] The two Reports which you have mentioned of the University Commissioners would make about four octavo volumes each?—Yes, I should say that they would be more readable and useful in four volumes than in one.

377. Colonel *Muir*.] You mentioned that many of these Parliamentary Papers possess much greater interest than others, and that it would be desirable to select the most interesting, and to leave out the remainder; and you mentioned particularly the Report on Ceylon. Do not you think that some consideration must be given to the different amount of interest which different Reports would have in the various localities to which they were sent? For example, even with respect to Ceylon, do not you conceive that there may be some of our great ports, where extensive trade with the East takes place, where such a Report as that might be much more valued than even some of those which you would consider as more generally interesting?—I merely took that as an example of Reports which would not be generally interesting; I am not prepared to say that the Report on the government of Ceylon would not be interesting to some persons, but I should say to comparatively very few indeed. A good report on the products and capabilities of the Island of Ceylon itself, not on its government, would be, I apprehend, most interesting and of extreme value.

378. Would you adopt the principle of making the selection vary with reference to the different localities to which the selected Papers were to be sent?—Yes; but I think that there is perhaps too much importance attached to that consideration. It is presumed that in the cotton manufacturing districts nothing would be interesting but what is written about cotton; and that in the woollen manufacturing districts the only interesting matters are what are written about wool. I believe that is not the case at all; persons are very capricious and variable in their tastes in that respect. I think it would not in general be a safe principle to go upon, that, because a certain trade was followed in a particular district, therefore nothing but what was connected with that trade would be interesting. I believe men go off, as a relief to the mind, into subjects very widely remote indeed from their daily avocations. For instance, the cultivation of mathematics and of botany amongst artisans in the manufacturing districts, has often been observed; studies the most remote from their daily pursuits.

379. Still, are you not of opinion, in spite of that remark, which to a certain extent is well founded, that in the communication of Reports upon important subjects, for the purpose of conveying important public information to the community at large, the general principle should be to transmit to the different localities, if it could be managed, those papers which immediately refer to the business and the industrial pursuits of those localities?—Unquestionably; I think it should be the object of the Legislature to disseminate correct views upon subjects of importance; not so much to ask themselves the question, whether every Paper which they send is likely to be read or not.

380. Mr. *Bruce*.] Has it occurred to you to consider with whom you would vest the power of selection of the Papers which should be sent?—I think the selection should lie with the House; they might call for advice from any parties whom they might think competent to give them such.

381. You said that you thought it would be well that Parliament should retain the property in the Papers so sent; upon whom would you devolve the

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responsibility of taking care of those Papers, so as to see that they were not lost, or that they were not sold, in the case of the dissolution of any of those institutions?—I am not prepared to say; for the great majority of those institutions are not incorporated. If you were to throw the onus upon the secretary, perhaps the same person might not be the secretary when the supposed event occurred. But the mere fact that the House did not part with the legal ownership of the property would be a sort of moral restraint upon the managers in the case supposed. Though you might not be able legally to secure the property, it could not be put up to sale by auction, or made away with publicly.

382. Colonel *Mure.*] Supposing the person or body employed by Parliament to make the general selection to have completed his list, do you think it would be expedient and practicable to adopt the plan of circulating the list at the close of the session amongst the different institutions, and allowing them, either by correspondence with Parliament, or with the Society of Arts, to make a selection of those Papers which they preferred, to the exclusion of those which they did not desire to have?—That might be done; but I have already stated that I do not think a selection could be made of the Papers to any advantage by persons who have not had an opportunity of examining the Papers. I apprehend it could not satisfactorily be done, merely from knowing their titles.

383. I understand your remark to apply to the great mass of the Parliamentary Papers. You say that, before the selection is made, they should be inspected by some competent person, who would be able to form a judgment of their value for this object. But after that process of selection has been gone through, do not you conceive that it might be convenient and advantageous to allow, out of that selected list so tested, the different societies to select such as might be to themselves most valuable?—I think it would be desirable; particularly upon the ground, that it would show the liberality of Parliament in meeting the wishes of the institutions which applied for certain Papers; but I believe that such applications would be rather the exception than the rule.

384. Do you think that they would all wish to have the whole of the selected list as prepared by Parliamentary authority?—Yes; in most cases, I apprehend they would wish to have the selected list.

385. In preference to making a further selection of their own?—Yes.

386. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that Papers with reference to our relations with foreign powers, and Papers relating to the state of our different colonies, would be proper Papers to be selected?—Decidedly; more especially the latter.

387. And in all Papers connected with investigations with reference to our commerce and manufactures?—Yes, and with reference to emigration. All those would be very interesting to the people.

388. When you stated that you did not consider that the inquiry into the government of Ceylon would be interesting, you did not mean to imply that Papers connected with our colonial affairs would generally be uninteresting?—No; I meant Papers bearing only upon the government of Ceylon, and not upon the colony itself. I should say that Papers bearing upon emigration to Australia and Papers bearing upon emigration to Canada would be universally read. Perhaps a better illustration of the sort of Papers that would not be read would be the Report upon Consolidated Annuities in Ireland, to which I have had occasion recently to refer.

389. Mr. *Michell.*] Would not sanitary reforms be aided much by the distribution of the Parliamentary Papers relating to that subject?—Yes; I have mentioned that, as one of the heads of Papers which ought to be sent.

390. Would not such Papers as the Population Returns, though not of general interest for reading, be very valuable for statistical references in those libraries?—Yes, I would go a little further. I would say that, in certain localities, such as Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, and certain other central localities in which there are public libraries established, there ought to be full and complete collections of all the Parliamentary Papers accessible to the public, free, at any proper time.

391. *Chairman.*] Whenever public libraries are established, would you send them to those public libraries in preference to other institutions?—I would send them to those public libraries, but I would still send them to the institutions.

392. Where there are more institutions than one existing in certain localities, would you send these Papers to more than one?—There are arguments for and against that course. If you send to one only, you excite jealousy in the others; if

if you send to more than one, you countenance what is a very undesirable thing in a county town, the maintenance of two or three institutions where one would be sufficient; because the expenses of carrying on those institutions, such as rent, taxes, gas, coals, secretary, &c., eat away the funds of the institutions, and it is therefore exceedingly desirable to discountenance the existence of several institutions in one town.

393. I believe there are two or three towns in the kingdom in which free libraries are established?—I believe there are at present a few; at Liverpool there is a public library established, and there is one at Warrington, and one at Salford, as I have been informed.

394. You would consider that the whole of the Parliamentary Reports should be sent to those libraries?—Yes; they should be sent to central spots over the country, where access could be had to them by persons making investigations or inquiries.

395. Do you know whether they are aware of the bulk of the whole mass of Parliamentary Papers?—I believe not; nor do I think it advisable, where there is not room, that they should all be sent.

396. Are you aware that on the average there are from 60 to 80 large volumes published every year?—I am not aware of the exact number; but I know there is a very large number published.

397. Supposing that number should be correct, are you of opinion that any of the institutions would have libraries sufficiently capacious to contain so considerable a number of volumes?—I am of opinion that libraries could be so constructed in certain central positions, such as Liverpool, Bristol, and Hull, in which complete collections of the Parliamentary Papers might be kept; of course, the size of the rooms which might be provided for those papers should be taken into consideration.

398. You are not aware whether those libraries which at present exist have sufficient accommodation for so large a number of volumes year after year?—I am not prepared to say that they have.

399. Mr. *Michell.*] Would it be advisable to have one particular room in each of the libraries for these Parliamentary Papers?—Yes, I believe that would be advisable.

400. So as to allow free access to it?—Yes.

401. Would it not be advisable that in every county there should be one complete set of the Parliamentary Papers deposited?—That is, in some measure, the idea which I threw out; but whether they should be in every county I cannot say, because the difficulty of providing accommodation for the Reports would be much greater in many counties than in those localities where public libraries are established.

402. Would it not be advisable to have some place in every county where magistrates and other persons might go to refer to those works if they required them?—I think so, if it be practicable.

403. Colonel *Mure.*] Might not the inconvenience arising from the greatness of the bulk be obviated in this way, that whilst the institutions should be under an obligation to keep the whole collection of the Papers in their repositories for a year or two back, yet in the course of time you might leave to them the discretion of casting aside or destroying such of them as they thought were not worth retaining?—They might throw into a cubical mass those that were not of any present interest.

404. Might not those which were not likely to be of any interest be destroyed after 10 or 15 years?—I do not like the idea of destroying books, because that might lead to abuse.

405. Might not you place such a power in the hands of a public body, such as magistrates of the county?—It might so happen that a Report, which was of very little value for the first 10 or 20 years after its publication, would suddenly become exceedingly important from its bearing on other questions that might arise, and persons would then wish to refer to that Report; so that I am not prepared to say that it would be advisable to allow of the destruction of any of the Parliamentary Papers.

406. *Chairman.*] Would there be any objection to have the Parliamentary Reports distributed to these institutions, accessible to other persons than their

Rev. *J. Booth*, F.R.S.

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members?—If you give the Parliamentary Reports perfectly free of cost to these institutions, I think the institutions might make some provision to allow persons to see them; but if you charge even a small sum for them, then I apprehend it would not be just to call upon them to throw open their collections to the public.

407. Do you consider that there would be any objection to these Papers being free of access to the public?—I consider there would be very little objection on the part of the institutions, if they got them free. It might be an implied condition that they should give facilities for reference to such documents, which they would not give to other portions of their libraries.

408. Are you aware that the Committee of Council on Education and the Board of Health do distribute their Papers to different institutions?—I know that the Reports of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education have been received by many institutions in union with the Society of Arts, and have been very much valued, so far as I can infer from the letters we have received.

409. Here is a list of the Parliamentary Papers published in the Session of 1851. Would you object to taking it, and marking such as in your opinion would be proper to be distributed in the event of such a distribution being made?—I shall be happy to do so, but at the same time I fear that such a selection made by me, without examining the Papers, would be in many cases erroneous.

410. Colonel *Mure*.] Do not you think that the imposing an obligation to admit the public freely who were not members of these institutions, where the entrance-money is so very small, and the facilities of being admitted members are so very great, might have the effect of interposing a bar to the intelligent of the lower classes becoming members, or at least of diminishing the inducement which might otherwise exist to their becoming members of these institutions?—I do not think practically it would have much effect, for I cannot conceive of persons coming in large numbers merely to refer to Parliamentary Reports. I believe such instances would be very rare; besides, I apprehend there would be a feeling of delicacy in persons going to an institution to read Parliamentary Reports, if they were not members. Therefore, though the institution might say to the public, "You can come here to examine the Parliamentary Papers," I apprehend that the privilege would be made very little use of.

411. Mr. *Stirling*.] Would not you be disposed to place the granting of such permission in the hands of the managers of the institution?—Yes.

412. You would not give the public an absolute right to demand it?—I would not; there should be an application that So-and-so wishes to consult such a Report or Paper.

413. Perhaps upon the principle of the British Museum, where no person is allowed to read, unless upon a guarantee that he is a respectable person?—Yes; but I believe that the privilege would be very little, if at all, sought; and that persons who wished to read the Parliamentary Reports would pay a small subscription, and thus avail themselves of the legitimate use of the library.

414. Colonel *Mure*.] Is it your proposal that it should be a condition to those literary institutions to admit the public, as far as they thought the persons applying were respectable and proper persons, or that they should admit the public generally?—I believe it would be better put in the shape of a recommendation, because it would have the same effect; and if you put it as an injunction, it might appear as if Parliament wished to interfere with their internal arrangements. I think the recommendation would have all the practical weight that the other would have, without that objection.

415. You would, in fact, leave it, with that recommendation, in the discretion of the institution to admit the public, or not, to the use of the Parliamentary Papers, as they thought fit?—Yes.

416. Mr. *Michell*.] Perhaps it might be advisable to admit the public upon the recommendation of one of the members of the institution?—Yes, it might be; but this is a matter of mere detail.

417. Do you think it would be a means of increasing the funds of the institution by new subscriptions, rather than of diminishing them?—I can scarcely conceive of persons, where the subscription is so small, coming day after day to read the Parliamentary Reports, and yet not becoming members of the institution.

418. *Chairman*.]

418. *Chairman.*] Have you any general observations to make upon this subject?—I have one observation that I wish to make: I believe the Parliamentary Reports would have a much wider circulation if the form were altered, and if the sale were thrown open much more extensively than it is to the bookselling trade. There are many private individuals in the country who often desire to see the Reports, but in general they do not know where to procure them. If the Reports were thrown into the trade channels, at the usual trade allowance, I believe that a considerable sale of some of them would take place.

419. Are you aware that a catalogue is published every year?—Yes, but not one person in a thousand ever sees the catalogue; it is not the interest of the booksellers to sell those books, because there is no trade allowance upon them; a private individual can get them as cheap as any bookseller. If you were to make it the interest of the booksellers, by giving them the usual trade advantage, I believe that several booksellers would enter into the trade of Parliamentary Reports; so I have been informed.

420. Mr. *Drummond.*] With respect to the selection of the Papers for the institutions, how would it do if you threw the trouble of selecting the Papers they wish to have upon the institutions themselves?—I believe it would be exceedingly undesirable to do any such thing. In the first place, the institutions do not know what Papers are published; and, in the next place, if they even did, I do not think they would be competent to make the selection, for the reasons I have assigned; they would merely judge from the title, and when the Papers were sent down to them, they would find that many of them were perhaps unreadable.

421. You observe that somebody must be found who will be at the trouble of reading the Papers in order to make the selection. Who will undertake to read the 80 folio volumes yearly?—I do not say that the 80 folio volumes should be read through. One who is conversant with the critical examination of books, not merely with the reading of them, can easily ascertain the true character even of a large volume in a very short time, especially if the book does not contain scientific formulæ, or details requiring verification. The House of Commons might throw the selection upon the Society of Arts, as far as the institutions in union with that Society are concerned.

422. Is there in the Society of Arts machinery that could do this?—I believe so.

423. Mr. *Stirling.*] Are you aware whether the Society of Arts, in the list which they publish weekly of the Parliamentary Reports, add to that list any notes as to those which are more or less valuable?—I believe not; I am not aware that we have taken upon ourselves to recommend any particular Parliamentary Papers.

424. Are you aware what is the total number of literary institutions and mechanics' institutes in the United Kingdom?—In England, Scotland and Wales, I believe there are about 800; we have made up a printed list of about 800 institutions.

425. You are aware that it might be difficult to distribute these Papers to the whole number?—It might.

426. Have the Jury Reports of the Great Exhibition been distributed by the Society of Arts to the institutions in union with them?—Yes, 250 copies were given by the Royal Commissioners to the Society of Arts for that purpose. They have distributed various other publications as well; for instance, Dr. Playfair's Lectures, and some others.

427. Mr. *Michell.*] Can you state whether, since this question has been mooted, a great number have come into union with the Society of Arts?—The number of institutions in union with the Society of Arts is increasing every week.

428. Has there been a greater increase since this subject has been brought forward than there was previously?—I cannot say that there has; I do not think that has had any perceptible effect in increasing the number.

Lunæ, 28° *die Februarii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tufnell.	Mr. Ewart.
Mr. Michell.	Mr. Brotherton.
Colonel Mure.	Mr. Fortescue.
Mr. Drummond.	Mr. Walter.
Mr. Cumming Bruce.	Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Headlam.	

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY TUFNELL, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Thomas Hogg*, called in; and Examined.

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429. *Chairman.*] YOU were for some time Secretary to the Mechanics' Institutes at Liverpool and Leeds, were you not?—I was nine months at Leeds, and I was about five and a half years at Liverpool.

430. You were also for two years in the institutions connected with the Lancashire and Cheshire Union?—Yes.

431. How many institutions did the union combine?—At first they were very few; afterwards they rose to about 60, and then the number fell off from time to time, till at last the union was broken up from actual want of support.

432. Did the institutions in that union contribute towards a general fund?—Yes, some of them paid 20 *s.* a year and some 10 *s.*, according to the number of their members: but there was another special fund out of which the secretary was paid, and that fund was only subscribed for one year; the institutions found that they could not maintain it in a proper state of efficiency, and the secretary became an honorary officer.

433. In return for those general subscriptions, did they furnish lectures?—Yes, they did; it was a part of my duty, when appointed, to give a certain number of lectures every year; that number was 90; and I gave about 50, all that were applied for, to the various institutions; many received them without charge, except for travelling expenses. Then arrangements were tried to be made with lecturers, so that by obtaining different engagements the charge might be less, but those were so very few that the practice was at last given up. The institutions are actually so poor that they cannot afford in many places to pay for lectures.

434. Have you a list of the institutions that were once in union, and the number of members of each?—I could supply it; I have all the reports and documents at home.

435. Perhaps you will be kind enough to supply them?—Yes, I will.

436. Have any of the institutions with which you have been connected, received any Parliamentary Papers or Reports?—Several of them have; at Liverpool the present Earl of Harrowby was, while Lord Sandon, the Member for that town, and he used always to send down every Parliamentary Report that he thought was likely to interest the members of the institution; and when I was secretary to the Lancashire union I wrote to several of the public boards, the Poor Law Board, the Registrar-general, and the Council on Education, and two or three others, asking if they would supply the Reports, free, and they all agreed to do so, if the institutions which applied for them showed good reason that they would be properly used; but, I believe, out of some 50 or 60 institutions, only two or three took the trouble to apply.

437. Can you state any reason, so far as your knowledge goes, why they refused to apply?—There was a general dislike to have blue-books in the library; people think that they are exceedingly dry reading. There were very few applications for them unless they were interesting at the time; especially if they were specially and locally interesting.

438. The Reports that you received were not specially or locally interesting?—Certainly not.

439. Those

439. Those that were sent by Lord Harrowby to the institution at Liverpool were much prized, were they not?—Yes; they were always laid on the table, and were pretty regularly consulted; they were chiefly, I may say, of local interest, and of a nature to interest the members of the institution specially.

440. They were not general reports, or inquiries in Committees of the House of Commons?—No, unless those inquiries had reference directly to the town of Liverpool.

441. Are you of opinion that it was the ignorance of the members of those institutions as to the nature of the Reports and their character which rendered them indifferent to their being received?—I believe that to a great extent it was.

442. Do those institutions generally possess a room in which any additional library could be placed?—Some of them have, but a good many have not. The great defect of many of them is their being so much cramped for space.

443. Have they generally possession of a house, or do they lease a house?—It is usually leased.

444. Very few of them have buildings of their own, have they?—Very few, and nearly all that have, have them in many cases very deeply mortgaged.

445. Are you of opinion that those institutions would be benefited if they received Reports from Parliamentary Committees of The House?—Yes, I am certain it would be a very great benefit to the institutions, and the members generally; it would add to the value of the library; and when the members knew that reports specially interesting to them, were to come regularly, they would make a point of being there, and examining them.

446. How can you reconcile that statement with the indifference which you state was manifested by the institutions when they might have had some Reports, and did not apply for them?—Because I believe they were not aware of their value or importance.

447. Mr. *Ewart.*] The Papers probably were not well selected?—No, I cannot say they were. It was only those public boards that published annual reports that were applied to.

448. Mr. *Michell.*] Had they to pay for the carriage of them?—In some cases; but in most cases they were sent free.

449. Perhaps in those cases in which they had to pay the carriage for them they thought that they were not equal to the value of the carriage?—Perhaps that might have been the objection.

450. *Chairman.*] Are you of opinion, supposing it should be determined to distribute the Parliamentary Papers of general local interest among those institutions, that it would be necessary to make a careful selection?—I think so; I think an indiscriminate supply would be of very little value.

451. Do you think that the institutions themselves would be capable of selecting such Reports?—Yes; if a proper list, I do not mean a mere list of titles only, but a list stating the whole contents of each Report, were sent to them, I believe they are capable of making a choice.

452. Do you think if a list like this (*showing the same to the Witness*) were sent to them, that they would be capable of making a selection?—This list might do; but it would be better if this could be extended a little, that is to say, to each, perhaps, four or five lines, with a little explanation of what the Paper was really and actually about.

453. Do you think it would be requisite, if the Papers were distributed, that they should be sent immediately on their publication, or that it should be delayed until the end of the Session?—I think they should be sent immediately on publication, because many of them are, I may say, of temporary interest, and they require immediately to be sent; many of those Returns are, of course, always changing with every month, and I think it important that if Returns relating to the trade and commerce and finance of the country are to be sent at all, they should be sent immediately.

454. Do you think that the indifference manifested has proceeded more from the ignorance of the parties as to the nature of the Reports than from any other cause?—I believe so; they have no idea of their actual intrinsic value.

455. Do you think that they would soon change their opinion with regard to the value of those Reports if a regular supply of selected Papers was transmitted to them?—Yes, decidedly.

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456. Do you think that those institutions are in a condition to pay anything for the carriage of those Papers?—I think they are in a condition, many of them, to pay, and in many cases they could receive them from London without any charge at all, because almost every institution receives a supply of books and periodicals, I may say, almost every month, and those have to come from London in the booksellers' parcels. At any rate, it would be just as easy to transmit those Papers along with them, and if any charge for carriage were made by the booksellers it would be very trifling.

457. And you conceive that that trifling charge the institutions would be able and willing to pay?—I should say so.

458. Are you of opinion that, supposing those Papers were to be distributed, they should be accessible to any other than the members of the institutions themselves?—Speaking from an institution point of view, I should say distinctly not, that they ought not to be accessible to any one not a member of the institution; for I think, if they were, it would open the door to such a considerable influx of those who had no interest in the institution, and no stake in it, that instead of being a boon it would become a perfect inconvenience.

459. You think that it would be objectionable to the members to see others who were not members, enjoying the same privilege?—Yes, I think so; besides, the members there pay a certain amount for certain advantages, and that advantage of course would be given out as one of them, and if any one chose to come in who was not a member, and used those Papers while another person, a member, was waiting for them, that would not be at all satisfactory.

460. At what date was it that those institutions declined to make applications for Parliamentary Papers?—In 1849.

461. The question had not then been very much mooted, had it?—The question of supplying the institutions directly with them was then quite unknown. I published the correspondence that I had with the different Boards in London in the annual report, and sent it round, directing attention specially to it.

462. Then the supply of Papers to which you have referred, and which those institutions declined, was rather with regard to those public Boards than any that were published directly by Parliament?—Purely with reference to public Boards.

463. And not having reference to investigations by Parliamentary Committees or Statistical Returns?—Certainly not; there were the Poor-law Board, the Committee of Council on Education, the Registrar-general, and the Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

464. How many institutions did you say had received them?—Not more than two or three; in one case there were 10 copies of a particular report sent down to me, for distribution, which I distributed.

465. Mr. *Ewart.*] Who authorized the transmission of those documents?—They came to me from the different Boards directly.

466. Have you any reason for knowing that since this question has been more discussed, the institutions themselves are more alive to the benefits which they would receive from the distribution of those Papers than they were before?—On that I cannot speak; but the first time I heard the question raised was, I think, at a meeting of the Society of Arts in May last. I have come so little in contact since then with mechanics' institutions, that I cannot speak upon that point.

467. Your own individual opinion is that it would be very beneficial to those societies?—Certainly.

468. In a public point of view, as regards the dissemination of knowledge, with respect to passing events, and those questions which become the subject of legislation, it would be useful to distribute them among these societies?—Yes, and it would clear away a good many prejudices that now exist, and which for want of authentic information continue to exist.

469. Mr. *Headlam.*] Can you tell the Committee generally what class of persons belong to the mechanics' institutes with which you are connected?—The class was exceedingly various. In some towns I have known the members to consist of almost entirely working men, and in others again I have scarcely known a working man to be a member; it varies a great deal with the nature of the population of the town. In some of the towns the members are chiefly young

young men employed in offices and shops; but I should say as my decided opinion that mechanics do not generally support those institutions.

470. Do you think, if the effect of sending those documents was rather to induce a class of persons of a higher description to become members of the mechanics' institutes, that it would encourage or discourage mechanics and labouring men from joining such institutes?—I do not think that the fact of any person in a higher class of life joining would affect any others from attending. I believe the same inducement that would bring a person in the higher ranks would also induce working men to go if those Papers were transmitted.

471. Should you think it would be most expedient that they should be sent perfectly gratuitously, or that a small charge should be made for them?—If you give a boon, I think it should be given without charge.

472. Do you think that there would be no danger of their not appreciating a thing for which they paid nothing?—I should think not.

473. Do you think that they should both receive them gratuitously, and also that the postage should be paid?—No; I think that the cost of carriage should be defrayed by the institution.

474. Would you take any precautions for the preservation of them?—Not beyond what are usually taken for the other books in the library. It would require to be distinctly understood that on the breaking up of the institution those Papers must go either to an institution of a similar kind or revert to the public. That is the only precaution that I think would be necessary, that they ought not to be sold.

475. Is there usually any body to whom they could be confided; any trustees or governing body in the institution?—There usually are trustees in whom the property is vested; but the governing body, the real governing body, is so very changeable, that they are changed almost every year. If they are vested at all, it should be in trustees.

476. *Chairman.*] As to the selection of these Papers, you think, do you not, that the institutions themselves are not at present sufficiently able to judge what would be of the greatest interest to them?—I think, at present, generally speaking, they are not.

477. In whom, then, should that selection be vested at first?—If there was a central body in London that was in constant communication with the institutions, I think that that body would be most competent to suggest a list to a Committee of the House of Commons.

478. There are some documents, of course, which would be more interesting in one locality than in another?—Yes.

479. Therefore it would be necessary to exercise a discretion, so as not to send the same Reports to every one?—Of course; I think that a central body in correspondence with every institution would be best able to make up the list.

480. Mr. *Brotherton.*] If a free library was established in any of the towns where there was also a mechanics' institution, to which would you give the preference as to these Parliamentary Papers?—I would give the preference to the free library, certainly.

481. Mr. *Ewart.*] Every body would then have access to the Papers?—Yes.

482. Do not you think that the great evil of mechanics' institutions is their want of permanency of character?—Yes; but that arises from their being so exceedingly poor.

483. Still the effect of that is, that they are of a more transient and fleeting character than such institutions as public free libraries?—Certainly, there is no security for their permanence.

484. They would be useful, would they not, to two particular departments of mechanics' institutes, namely, the library and the lecturers?—I do not think that they would be of much use to the lecturers, because when they come there they always come fully prepared.

485. To the local lecturers would it not be a great advantage to have an opportunity of consulting the Parliamentary Returns?—Yes.

486. Has the character of the lectures that are delivered throughout the country much improved of late years?—I think not.

487. It was the object of the Society of Arts, who held a meeting upon the subject in May last year, to attempt to improve, if possible, the quality of the lectures?—

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lectures?—Yes, so I understood; but unless the institutions are able to pay, they will never be able to have good lectures; at present they cannot pay properly for them.

488. Do not you think that there is more likely to be a demand for Parliamentary Papers as the intelligence of the country increases, than there has been of late years?—Most decidedly.

489. Therefore you cannot argue from the neglect that has hitherto been shown as to Parliamentary Papers to prove that there would be the same neglect of them in future?—Certainly not.

490. Do you recollect any instance of a mechanics' institution subscribing for Parliamentary Papers under the regulations of the House of Commons?—No; when I was secretary at Liverpool I tried two or three times to get them to subscribe, but they always objected that the expense was more than the library could bear.

491. What is the amount of the subscription?—About 17*l.* a year.

492. Including both the Journals and the Parliamentary Papers?—Yes, including both the Journals and the Parliamentary Papers and every thing.

493. What do you think of a plan which has been suggested to the Committee of encouraging the private circulation of those Parliamentary Papers, so that if they were entrusted either to a public library or a mechanics' institution in a town, they might be lent out to persons who wished to consult them?—I think if they are sent to mechanics' institutions at all, they might be circulated after a certain time; they should be allowed to lie on the table for reference for a certain length of time, and after that they should be circulated to those who were desirous to have them.

494. Do you know whether the editors of the country papers in the different towns subscribe for the different Parliamentary Papers?—I do not know of any single case. Where I resided, in Liverpool, I was sometimes engaged in literary work, and I very often had occasion to refer to Parliamentary Papers, and I went to the editors thinking that they would have them, but in no case did I ever get what I wanted.

495. Then to the gentlemen connected with the press it might be very desirable to have access to those Papers?—It would, indeed.

496. Colonel *Mure.*] You spoke of having a selection of Papers, or of selecting a list at the close of the session; you also spoke of the desirableness of having Papers sent down immediately on their publication; those objects seem scarcely to be compatible with each other if fully carried out. Would you not rather propose that certain kinds of Returns, of an interesting description, should be sent immediately upon their publication, at the discretion of some body, such as you have alluded to, and that at the close of the session a classified list should be made out of Papers likely to interest the different associations, and from which each might select those that more immediately concerned its own locality?—I think the best way would be this: that it should be decided what class of Papers should be sent quickly, that is to say, the Financial Returns; and that all those should be sent at once, without any selection, and at the end of the session there should be a selection made, because many of these Returns lose their interest after the time has passed away.

497. With respect to Returns which were not perhaps comprised within the category of those that were to be sent immediately, supposing that some locality from peculiar circumstances, happened to desire a Return which was peculiarly interesting to them, would you give them the power of applying for that particular Return during the session?—Certainly.

498. Mr. *Ewart.*] You are aware that newspapers now are in the habit of publishing the titles of all Parliamentary Papers as they come out?—Yes, many of them do.

499. Therefore a person desirous of having some special Return, might consult the newspapers, and then communicate with the body, whatever it might be, in the town, and so obtain the Paper that was desired?—Yes, that could be very easily arranged.

500. Mr. *Michell.*] Is there not a disinclination on the part of publishers and printers to send books in their parcels which do not come through their hands?—There is a disinclination; and the practice in London is, that a small sum is paid on each.

501. But is there not a disinclination, even when that small sum is paid?—Yes;

—Yes; but they cannot offend their customers in the country by refusing to take them; and any little charge, I think, the institution would pay readily.

502. What body do you think would be the best to select the Papers, if some body was appointed; the Society of Arts?—That is the only body I know of, at present, the only body that exists in London, which is in communication with the institutions all over the country.

503. Supposing it was thought that the public should be admitted free of any expense, to obtain access to these documents, would it not be advisable to have a room exclusively set apart for them?—If the public were admitted, that would be necessary.

504. Colonel *Mure.*] You were asked a question as to the choice between two institutions in a certain locality, whether the one or the other should be preferred as to its merits; have you considered the question generally, with regard to how far it would be desirable to restrict the number of institutions throughout the country, or throughout your own district, to which the boon should be conceded, upon application?—I think there should be no restriction, and that every institution should receive them.

505. You also stated that some of these institutions were so extremely poor that they could hardly carry on their affairs for any length of time, and that the property of some of them was mortgaged; would it be desirable, merely upon an application, perhaps some fancy on the part of a very poor body that they ought to be on a level with others, to send down a large number of Papers, without any restriction, to such a body as that?—I do not think that you can properly make any selection, because the fact of an institution existing shows that there are people who want to be educated and informed.

506. If they received such grants for a very few years, they would probably encumber their premises so much that they would not know what to do with them in a case where they were very poor?—I think that where the buildings are mortgaged they have a good deal of space; the building may be said to be their own.

507. Mr. *Walter.*] What number of members would constitute an institute; would the mere fact of a person calling himself the chairman, and naming two or three friends, be sufficient?—No; I think that every institution applying should send up a statement of its affairs, a copy of its accounts, and its annual report.

508. Do not you think that the possession of either a freehold or leasehold residence should be a qualification to entitle persons to receive Parliamentary Papers, or should there not be a certain degree of permanency given to the institution, such as would be indicated by the possession of either a freehold or a leasehold residence?—If Parliament make that a condition they would leave out nine-tenths of them.

509. You think that nine-tenths are neither in the possession of freehold premises, nor of premises held for a term of years?—Yes.

510. Can you state any cases in which mechanics' institutions have been dissolved?—I know of several cases; there was one at Liverpool which was not actually dissolved, though it was suspended for several years, and that arose in consequence of their being turned out of one of the corporation schools, in consequence of some change in the majority of the council.

511. Are you aware what number of subscribers belong to that institute?—Speaking from memory, I think about 200 or 300 at that time.

511.* Colonel *Mure.*] In your answer to the Honourable Member's question, as to what constitutes such an institution, you stated that you thought an institution, in applying for Parliamentary Papers, ought to send up, as it were, its credentials, and a statement of its general position. I presume, from that, that you would give to somebody here a discretionary power, in case that explanation should not be satisfactory, to decline admitting that institution to the privilege proposed to be conceded?—Yes, certainly.

512. You would therefore in reality lay such a restriction upon the full license which you otherwise would be disposed to grant?—It might happen that an institution which might be said to be of a strictly private nature would apply, whose numbers were restricted.

513. You would draw a distinction between what was called a public institution, and another that was characterized as private?—Yes.

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514. Every institution that could be classed under the head of public institutions you would admit to the privilege?—Clearly.

515. Mr. *Walter*.] Do you know any cases in which mechanics' institutes have either changed their name or become merged in other literary institutions?—Yes; I know a case in Leeds where a literary society and a mechanics' institution became amalgamated.

516. I presume in that case the mechanics' institution was not much frequented by the class of persons for whom it was nominally provided?—There were a good many mechanics attending it at that time, but they happened to have a very good building, and not many members, while the literary society had an excellent library, but no building; so the two combined.

517. Do not you think that the term "mechanics' institution" is calculated to a certain extent to mislead the public, so far as to induce the public to believe that those institutions are frequented by mechanics, whereas generally speaking they are not so frequented?—The name is certainly a misnomer.

518. The name was given, was it not, under the belief that such institutions would be frequented chiefly by the class of mechanics?—Undoubtedly.

519. Do not you think that where that intention has evidently failed, it would be desirable that they should change their names, and assume a more general character, without specifying the particular class to which they were supposed to belong?—I have seen several cases in which attempts have been made to change the name, and it has always merged into a question of feeling. The older members said that the institution had got on very well under its old name, and they would listen to no argument as to a change. I remember in one case the question being put to the vote, and it was carried to retain the old name.

520. Mr. *Fortescue*.] Do you still think that it would be worth while to send those Papers to societies not having 100 members, taking into account that the public should not be admitted?—I think they ought to go to every institution. It may be a question whether they should be sent to the Town Hall in a small place, or to the institution; but I think, no matter what the number of members may be, that every institution should receive them.

521. *Chairman*.] Are you aware of the number of such institutions in the country?—Speaking roughly, I think there are about 500.

522. Mr. *Headlam*.] Would you send them to two institutions in the same town?—Yes.

523. You would not pay any regard to the number of rival institutions in the same place?—I would take the existence of a number of institutions in the same place as a sign that there was a demand there for education.

524. Would not the demand for education be exhibited either by taking a smaller number of institutions, or one comprising a large number of members?—In large towns there is this great obstacle, that an institution may be two or three miles away from the residence of the members, and they find that exceedingly inconvenient, and they have in many cases established an institution in their own neighbourhood.

525. In those institutions, are the books chiefly used by persons in the room, belonging to the establishment, or are they generally taken away by the members from the establishment, to read at home?—They are almost invariably taken home.

526. There is no great number of persons who use them in the house itself?—Very few.

527. Mr. *Fortescue*.] What did you mean when you spoke of sending these Papers to the Town Hall?—If it came to be a question as to whether they should be freely open to the public, or only to the members of the institution in a small town, it would be better, I think, to send them to the Town Hall.

528. That would be quite a different thing, would it not, to sending them to a small society, which might contain a very few readers?—If it is a small society, it is sure to be a small town, and in that small society you will have the people who wish to read.

529. Mr. *Brotherton*.] Would they be accessible to the members of the institution, if they were only deposited at the Town Hall?—Certainly, the members of the institution, as members of the public, would have a right to see them.

530. Do you think it is likely that they would continually avail themselves of those books, if they were only deposited at the Town Hall?—Yes, I think so; I think

think that those members who would like to see them at the institution, would also go to see them at the Town Hall.

531. Mr. *Michell.*] Would there be the same means of getting them circulated; for instance, in a society there is a librarian, and a fire to read by in the room?—There would not be the same facility for circulating as in the institutions.

532. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do you think that a society might be called upon to name an agent in London, to whom their parcels should be sent, and who might have an opportunity of sending by private hand, and who should forward them?—Yes, that could very easily be done, because all those societies obtain through their agents, a parcel almost every month from London, either books or periodicals.

533. A great many might manage it through private hand, might they not?—They might.

534. Or by some of their own members coming up to town, or some relation of one of the members residing in London?—There might be a few cases of that kind, but I think it would be more regular if they came through some of the London booksellers in the booksellers' parcels.

535. Each might name its own agent in London, to whom the body distributing the Papers should send the parcel?—Yes, that could be done.

536. *Chairman.*] Supposing that it should be considered necessary at first at all events to limit the number of societies to whom those Papers should be distributed, does any mode suggest itself to you by which a line might be drawn between those who should have them and those who should not?—I think if it were determined to limit the number, the only way would be to take, say five or six institutions in a small district, and select one as a centre, and send the Papers to that, and say that the members of the other institutions could have access to the Papers by going to the other institution.

537. Upon what principle would you make that selection; would it be the number of the members, or the convenience of the position?—It might be required to be done on both grounds.

538. If there were, say five or six institutions, one of which had 1,000 members, and the others under 100, you would not select one of those containing 100, because it was the most convenient as to situation?—No, certainly not.

539. You would make the number the general rule?—Yes; and, besides, institutions with 1,000 members should not, I think, have that restriction placed on them, because the reading of their own members would be sufficient to occupy the Papers.

540. Mr. *Ewart.*] There is a public library at Manchester, is there not, and one at Salford?—Yes.

541. You think that it would be sufficient to send the Papers to each of them to supply the wants of the town, or would it be necessary to extend the circulation of the Papers to the mechanics' institutions of the town?—I think that Manchester is so large, and the population of Manchester itself as well so very far away from the Free Library there, and also from the Free Library at Salford, that it would be necessary to send them to the mechanics' institutions.

542. You are aware that at the Free Libraries a machinery is adopted for lending out all the books they have?—I believe that that is only adopted at Manchester.

543. That therefore would give facilities to persons to obtain them by means of an already existing system?—Yes; but the Free Library in Manchester is at the bottom of Deansgate, which is a long way off; I mean the new building.

544. Colonel *Mure.*] When you recommend the selecting of one out of four or five institutions from its being in a central position, and extending to the members of the other institutions the privilege of reading the Papers within the premises of the one selected, would not that be open to the objection you have stated, that of giving liberty to persons not being members of the one institution to make use of its privileges?—I think not; because arrangements have repeatedly been made whereby a person who was a member of an institution, say in Manchester, Hull, or Leeds, at Liverpool on presenting his card was admitted to the privileges of the institution there; there has been that friendly spirit existing among the members.

545. Mr. *Headlam.*] You stated before that when in Liverpool you could not

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obtain access to those Papers by application to the editors of newspapers; had you any difficulty in Liverpool in getting a sight of the Parliamentary Papers?—Yes, very great difficulty.

546. Was there any bookseller there who dealt in Parliamentary Papers?—Not one, unless they were ordered.

547. Do you think that there was one complete set taken in, in the whole town of Liverpool?—I am not aware of it, unless it was at the Town-hall by the town clerk.

548. You do not know that there was one complete set to be seen in the town of Liverpool?—No, not as a fact.

549. Then what was the process by which any member of the public desirous of paying for one of these Papers could obtain it?—He must order it through a bookseller.

550. And that bookseller did not afford any particular facilities for obtaining it?—No; because he had to pay the price marked on it, and he charges commission on it to his customers; the booksellers do not care at all about it.

551. What was the commission charged by the bookseller?—If it were 2*s.* he would perhaps charge 2*s.* 4*d.* or 2*s.* 6*d.*

552. That was the sole profit that the bookseller made?—Yes.

553. Out of that 4*d.* or 6*d.* he paid carriage, did he not?—Yes.

554. So that, according to the present mode of sale, no bookseller is desirous of doing business of that description?—Certainly not.

555. Colonel *Mure.*] Would it be desirable, considering the inconvenience which you have experienced in obtaining access to Parliamentary Papers, and also the desirableness for literary men and persons engaged in similar pursuits to have that access in a country town or any such great metropolis as Liverpool, that there should be a complete set of Parliamentary Papers granted and lodged in some convenient place where the whole community might obtain access to them?—I think that in every town where the inhabitants establish a free library, there ought to be in it a complete set of Parliamentary Papers.

556. That would be preferable, you think, to having them placed under a principal body, or the constituted authorities, as a sort of state register, instead of belonging merely to one institution?—I think in all cases where free libraries are established they are under the direction of the town council.

557. Mr. *Ewart.*] The free libraries are engrafted on the municipality, are they not?—Yes.

558. Colonel *Mure.*] You think that it is important to have not a selection, but a complete collection of these Papers granted to each free library, if willing and able to accommodate them?—Yes.

559. *Chairman.*] Do you think they could afford accommodation for a complete set every year?—Yes.

560. Are you aware of the number of volumes printed on the average by the House of Commons every year?—I think the number of Papers is between 400 and 500, but of the number of volumes one cannot judge from that.

561. If you heard it stated that there were 60 volumes published every year, do you not think that in a few years that would exceed any limit, as to accommodation, which any free library could afford for books?—I think not, because as the books extended, the premises might be extended, and it is very easy to obtain accommodation for books. You have not only the walls, but you can put up shelvings so closely all through the centre of the room, that you can almost make the room a solid mass of books without inconvenience.

562. Are you of opinion that a whole collection of Parliamentary Papers would be of much use unless they were bound, and divided into different classes according to the subjects?—It would be of little use unless there was a special index made up every year.

563. Do you think that the free libraries would do that?—They would go to the expense of binding, I think.

564. Mr. *Michell.*] Is there an index made almost every year?—Not in every case.

565. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do you think that if the booksellers could procure these books with some allowance there would be a great sale for them?—I do not know. If the Government were to give the trade an allowance, I think they must raise the price. I believe they are sold at present at cost price; and if the

the cost price is now 2 *s.* 4 *d.*, the Government, to enable the trade to get a larger profit, must publish them at 3 *s.* or 3 *s.* 6 *d.*

566. Mr. *Headlam.*] Would that diminish the sale much?—I think it would not increase it.

567. Do you not think that there would be a larger sale if the booksellers had their profit and were interested in selling them, than there is now at the lower price?—I think not, because, with regard to these Reports, no man purchases one unless he is obliged.

568. Do not you think that persons would purchase them without being obliged, like other books, if there were the same temptations to buy them as there are with respect to other books?—Not if you raise the price.

569. Why should not the same principle apply to those books as to others?—Simply for this reason, that you cannot say that every one of those books is exceedingly interesting to every one of the public.

570. My question has reference to some particular Report which is of interest. Do not you think that if a bookseller had an interest in the publication that you would then see it lying upon his shelves, and that probably advertisements would be published that would increase the sale of that particular interesting Report, precisely in the same manner as the same circumstances would increase the sale of other works?—Yes, in those cases it would.

571. Do not you think that those circumstances would tend more to increase the sale than a small increase in price would tend to diminish it?—It might.

572. Mr. *Fortescue.*] By turning the bookseller into a distributor of those Papers?—Yes, by placing them on the same footing as the other works.

573. Colonel *Mure.*] Are you not of opinion, supposing that these Parliamentary Papers were granted to the whole body of these institutions, who, in the first burst of their enthusiasm in favour of what is supposed to be done, should apply for them, that a great number would find that there was considerable inconvenience in it, and that those Papers encumbered their premises, and perhaps would ask to be relieved from the obligation of taking them after a year or two?—Not if the selection were well made.

574. Even the very poorest and the very smallest in number and influence would, you think, be likely to continue them?—I think so.

575. *Chairman.*] You think that a good selection should be made, do you not?—I think that that is absolutely requisite.

576. If a good selection were made, and distributed generally, you think that they would, if not at first, yet very soon afterwards, be appreciated?—Yes, certainly.

577. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Do not you think that it is very desirable that the Parliamentary Papers should be sent to the different institutions as early as possible after their publication?—I think that some ought to be sent immediately. Those that contain Returns of the Trade and Finances of the country should be sent at once, because if they wait till the Session is over, the interest of many of them is gone.

578. Then, for that purpose, would it be best to have them sent direct from the House of Commons?—If the institutions would pay the postage, I think it would.

579. Supposing them sent free?—Certainly.

580. That would enhance their value very much in their estimation, would it not?—Yes, it would, by getting them so much earlier.

581. Colonel *Mure.*] You were asked a question by an Honourable Member, relative to the class of people of whom the members of mechanics' institutions chiefly consist; with regard to the number of mechanics who are members, when you speak of mechanics, you mean working men, labouring men, do you not?—Yes.

582. Because I apprehend that the word "mechanic" would apply to people of very good rank, position, and property, in its wider sense?—I would take a general definition, and say, that it included all those persons who received weekly wages.

583. That is to say, the lower class of mechanics; according to my impression, a mechanic is a person who is skilled in mechanism; but you would restrict it to the working mechanic, would you not?—Yes, precisely.

584. You spoke of journeymen shopkeepers being members of these institutions; do not you consider them, if engaged in mechanical operations, to be

 mechanics?—

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mechanics?—I would scarcely put a journeyman linen-draper, or a journeyman grocer, in that class.

585. You would put a journeyman watchmaker or a journeyman ironmonger in that class, would you not?—Wherever there is anything like skilled labour, I would put them in that class.

586. In point of fact, the question which the Committee has to consider with reference to the subject mooted by the Honourable Member is, as to whether you think the labouring classes generally derive benefit from those institutions, or whether it is restricted to an upper class?—I think generally the labouring class do not so much as the others.

587. Do you think that their poverty and inability to appear decently clad operate as an obstacle to their taking an interest in these institutions?—I think it arises more from their ignorance of their own want of knowledge, and their indifference rather than their poverty, because the fees are so very low.

588. You do not think there is any feeling of shame as to appearing in an institution of that kind in their working dress, or with a less respectable appearance than the other members?—I think not.

589. You think that the chief obstacle to their joining those institutions is their want of education, and their inability to appreciate their objects?—Yes.

590. *Chairman.*] Does your observation refer more particularly to agricultural labourers?—More especially to the labourers in towns. With regard to the institutions in the agricultural districts, I have not had so much experience.

591. In those institutions, do the members consist of those who constitute the governing body, and of others who join the institution but who have no governing power?—In almost every case, a member over 21 is eligible to be a director, after being a member for a certain time.

592. Then among the institutions with which you were acquainted formerly, the principle did not exist of having a certain number of members who governed the others, and who took no part in the government of the institution?—I am not aware of any case of that kind.

593. Mr. *Ewart.*] In such towns as Manchester, Liverpool, and Sheffield, are the great proportion of the members of mechanics' institutes mechanics?—In Liverpool, Manchester, and Leeds, to which my experience goes, I should say that the greater proportion are not mechanics, that many of them are tradesmen and shopkeepers, and people engaged as clerks in offices.

594. Do you remember the first foundation of those institutions, when Lord Brougham began them, 30 years ago, and when the greater number of the members consisted of mechanics?—I speak only from what I have read; and I believe that at the beginning they were chiefly, if not altogether, mechanics.

595. Colonel *Mure.*] You are not a native of that part of England in which you have been lately engaged?—I am a native of Scotland, and I came to England in 1841.

596. Have you had any experience of mechanics' institutions in your own country?—Not any.

597. *Chairman.*] Are there any general observations upon this subject that you would wish to offer to the Committee?—No; I think I have said all that I have to say on the subject.

Dr. *James William Hudson*, called in; and Examined.

Dr. *J. W. Hudson.*

598. *Chairman.*] YOU are the Secretary of the Manchester Athenæum, are you not?—Yes.

599. And you are otherwise connected with literary institutions in that part of the country?—Yes; the whole of the institutions in Lancashire and Cheshire are united in a general institutional association, upon the plan of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutions, of which Mr. Baines is the representative; and this union of institutions I represent as their chairman. Recently I took the liberty of ascertaining, as far as possible, what were the wishes of the representatives of the institutions of Lancashire and Cheshire, individually, and I think I shall be able to satisfy the Committee as to their views.

600. Are those both mechanics' institutions and literary and philosophical institutions?—In no instance are they philosophical institutions, except at Preston; that has one, but it belongs to the middle classes. In Great Britain there are but three philosophical institutions that have become popularized; they belong

belong to the middle classes; one is in Edinburgh, another in Preston, and the third is in the south of England.

601. Mr. *Headlam.*] Is there not one in Newcastle-upon-Tyne?—That is scarcely a popularized philosophical institution.

602. *Chairman.*] Will you state the number of those institutions which are included in the union?—The number of institutions united by having paid their subscription, is 21; the number of institutions represented, although they have not paid their subscriptions, is a large number; it comprehends in Lancashire, 66 institutions, representing at this time 13,339 subscribing members, containing in their libraries 116,051 volumes. In Cheshire, as connected with the union, there are 16 institutions, containing 2,612 members, and 17,810 books in their libraries.

603. How many of them are called mechanics' institutions, and how many literary institutions?—Nearly all mechanics' institutions; there are not more than six that are really literary institutions, and those are popular literary institutions as distinguished from the philosophical institutions. The difference between a philosophical institution and a popular literary institution is this, that any person can subscribe to a literary institution if he thought proper, but in a philosophical institution it is required that he shall be admitted to membership by nomination and by vote.

604. There is no process whatever of election in a literary institution?—None at all; the tendering of the money is sufficient; no test of membership, but unbounded reliance that they are parties of respectability.

605. Is no recommendation required?—None whatever.

606. With respect to mechanics' institutions, election is necessary, is it not?—It has almost entirely fallen into disuse; in the first 10 years of mechanics' institutions it was the constant practice to have a recommendation from one or more householders, but all the larger institutions have now given it up, Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield, Liverpool, and indeed every large provincial town has given up the test, believing it to be useless.

607. By whom are the directors elected?—By the members in all cases.

608. Is it requisite that a person should have been a member for a certain time to entitle him to vote for a director?—In some cases it is 12 months; but in the majority of cases the test of time has recently been abolished, so that the moment the subscription is paid the party is eligible to be elected as a director, provided he is 21 years of age.

609. Do those institutions generally have a salaried secretary?—In all large towns they have.

610. Have you heard lately the question discussed respecting the distribution of Parliamentary Papers amongst those institutions?—It has been very generally discussed in almost all the smaller institutions in consequence of the publicity which has been given to it. At their occasional soirées some Honourable Members have held out a promise that they might obtain large additions to their libraries. I believe about 200 institutions have already petitioned, and I know that about 35 have petitions on their tables in process of signature.

611. Are those the larger institutions?—Chiefly the smaller.

612. The larger institutions have not petitioned?—No; and there are various reasons why they have not; in one respect they have thought of the terms upon which they would be received, and also the expenses that might be attending them; and they find, generally speaking, that there is not a demand for that class of reading. For instance, take Manchester, Liverpool, and Leeds, there is only one volume in 150 issued in the whole class of Parliamentary Papers; of politics, statistics, and political economy, only one against 150 of the entire circulation, or rather, by another test, one work in that section as against 100 novels issued.

613. You state that they possess some Parliamentary Records; by whom has the selection been made?—They have been presented by Members of Parliament who have been vice-presidents or presidents of the institutions.

614. Of what nature are the Reports that have been presented?—They are quite of a miscellaneous character.

615. Are you of opinion that the members do not care about this species of literature, or is it from ignorance that they place so little value upon them?—I think they desire to have them, but I believe they are not likely to make use of them to any extent.

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616. Mr. *Ewart.*] How came the smaller institutions so desirous of obtaining them?—Upon the principle of getting all they can, as many of them have stated. I shall be happy to lay some documents before the Committee, signed by their secretaries, to prove my statement.

617. *Chairman.*] You are aware that not only in your part of the country, but in other parts of the country, there has been a general feeling evinced of late to have a certain number of those documents?—I am quite aware of that.

618. You do not think that that desire is based upon any rational grounds, but merely to get all they can?—I think so, on the part of the institutions in the smaller towns.

619. Are you of opinion that neither in the smaller nor in the larger towns would the distribution of those Papers be of any service?—In the large towns there is a very strong feeling that a mechanics' institute or literary society is not a proper place in which to deposit those Papers. The free libraries that have Parliamentary Papers in them are very extensively used, and especially in that department, in Manchester; we cannot supply the demand; and the same in Salford at the free library; Bolton is not yet open to the public; but they have allowed in some instances parties to refer to the few Parliamentary Papers that they have; in the case of Liverpool the demand is great for Returns; in the case of Warrington, where they opened a free library, there is also a demand for Parliamentary Papers.

620. Mr. *Ewart.*] Have they opened the free library at Bolton?—It is not yet opened.

621. The one at Warrington has been opened for several years, has it not?—Yes.

622. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do you know how many free libraries there are?—No; I am not aware of any, except from recent proceedings, and it would almost depend upon what is a free library. I take the Stirling Library at Glasgow to be free, because it is kept so in accordance with the will of Stirling, the testator. I take Preston to have a free library, under the express condition of Dr. Sheppard's will, as it is to be managed by the corporation of Preston. Those two, with Cheetham's Library in Manchester, may be called free libraries; and independently of them, there are the modern free libraries. We have in Manchester and Salford two; in Warrington one; Liverpool, one; and Bolton one, making five.

623. In those towns where free libraries exist there has been very great interest and anxiety displayed for the Parliamentary Papers?—Yes, especially for Returns.

624. You are not of opinion that a limited and judicious selection would be prized, where there is not a free library, by mechanics or the members of those other literary institutions?—Certainly not, but all our large towns have established, or are about to do so, free libraries.

625. Mr. *Brotherton.*] You would give the preference to the Papers being distributed to the free libraries rather than to the mechanics' institutions?—Yes, undoubtedly; and I may state this fact, that it is the practice in all mechanics' institutes to have a recommendation-book or suggestion-book, in which the members suggest what book should be bought for the library, and Honourable Members may be very sure that they would recommend perhaps three times as many books as their means would allow them to purchase. In my experience of the working of the mechanics' institutions, with which I have been connected for 11 years, and in the experience of two or three secretaries of institutions, more especially Mr. Stone, who was for seven or eight years secretary of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution, we only know of one single instance in which a Parliamentary Paper was ever applied for or suggested through these means; but in the Free Library of Manchester and the Free Library of Salford there are continual suggestions.

626. *Chairman.*] Are there not many towns in the country not sufficiently large to support free libraries, but which are sufficiently large to support and do support mechanics' institutions in considerable numbers, and are you not of opinion that in such a case such mechanics' institutes would derive benefit from a judicious selection of these Papers?—I am strongly of opinion that there is an urgent necessity for the immediate establishment, in all towns of above 5,000 inhabitants, of a Local Record Office and Towns Free Library. I am quite sure, that in Scotland, and in the Northern counties, of which I have some considerable knowledge, speaking of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Durham, and

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my connexion with Yorkshire for four years, both in the working of the Yorkshire union, and acting as secretary of the Leeds Institution, there is the same feeling, and I know that the local gentry are quite prepared to support with their funds to a considerable extent the establishment of free libraries; there is a strong and growing interest of that kind.

627. Mr. *Ewart.*] Extending, or rather lowering the number from 10,000, which is now the prescribed limits of population for free libraries, to 5,000?—Yes.

628. *Chairman.*] In a free library, would you allow them the whole of the Parliamentary documents or a selection merely?—The whole of them; the general feeling on the part of the public is, that there is a great and broad distinction between a mechanics' institute and a free library. A member goes to a mechanics' institute to see what their stores consist of; but in going to a free library, a citizen goes at once to that building and asks for what he wants, and expects it to be there, and so it would be as to Parliamentary documents.

629. Mr. *Michell.*] Suppose there was a literary institution, with a statistical library, formed in that institution, and that there were not more than 50 members belonging to it, do you think that Parliamentary Papers ought to be sent to such an institution as that, being in a central situation in a county?—I think not.

630. In some libraries, as you are probably aware, novels are not admitted?—No, but they evade that; I do not know an institution of any kind, and I have paid much attention to this, into which novels in some shape or other, do not enter; for instance, in the case of the Hull Institution, it was resolved that novels should not be admitted, and in two years they wore out; they actually thumbed out two entire sets of "Bentley's Miscellany;" this was not a novel, but "Jack Sheppard" was in it.

631. *Chairman.*] Do you think that a free library should be established in every considerable town in the kingdom?—Yes.

632. Having what population?—5,000.

633. Do you think that having a free library, such a town should have, not a selection, but the whole of the Parliamentary Papers sent to it?—I think so.

634. Do you think that in a town containing 5,000 or 6,000 inhabitants, they would be able to provide a library sufficient to accommodate, say 60 thick volumes every year?—I do, and for this reason; two-thirds of the mechanics' institutes are not open in the day, consequently, so far as the libraries are concerned, they would be useless, and they have no funds to pay for assistance; very small funds available for fitting up the shelving in the room. But under the Free Library Act there would be no difficulty in paying a person to attend and fitting up a shelf-room.

635. Mr. *Michell.*] You have been among large populations; perhaps you are not aware, supposing you took the eastern and western, or northern and southern division of a county, or where it is divided into two parts, that you would not find a town in a whole division containing 5,000 inhabitants, in that case would you debar that division of the county from having access to those Papers?—I should be for extending the basis even lower, if it was considered desirable.

636. Supposing you found counties of that sort in England, and say that in the eastern division of it there was no town containing 5,000 inhabitants to be found, but perhaps 4,000 might be found, how would you meet that case?—I would meet that case by applying the system which is now pursued in many parts of the north of England, namely, by having an itinerating library; and I would have a complete system of works of this kind, and they should itinerate within a given distance from institution to institution; there is no difficulty in working out that arrangement.

637. Colonel *Mure.*] That would be irrespective of free libraries altogether, I presume. You would not circulate the works belonging to a neighbouring free library through an agricultural district?—No, my answer had reference to small institutions, very small.

638. Mr. *Ewart.*] Those itinerating libraries have been founded in Scotland, have they not?—Yes, and they died out.

639. There are some now, are there not?—No, they have been discontinued. I went to Haddington, which was the last, to see whether it was in operation, and I found that it was discontinued.

640. *Chairman.*] Until the time arrives when these free libraries can be

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universally established, do you conceive that it would be of any use to distribute a selection of Parliamentary Papers among such institutions as now exist, and which appear to be anxious to have them?—It cannot possibly be otherwise than beneficial to the institutions to receive the Papers, but whether they would be used to a considerable extent is a question.

641. Granted, that when the free libraries are established it would be better to give them to those free libraries rather than to the mechanics' institutes, but until that time arrives do you conceive that it would be beneficial to distribute a selection of those Papers to those institutions which now exist?—Yes.

642. Mr. *Walter.*] Do you conceive that the distribution of Parliamentary Papers to these mechanics' institutes would retard the formation of free libraries?—Not in the slightest.

643. Mr. *Headlam.*] In these free libraries are books lent out, or are they read upon the premises?—With the exception of Bolton, Warrington, Liverpool, and Salford, the libraries have also what is termed a lending library.

644. As a separate and distinct portion of it?—Yes.

645. Are there two sets of books; one set capable of being lent out, and another set to be read upon the premises?—Yes, to some extent.

646. Mr. *Walter.*] You stated that in the association of institutions with which you are connected there were 117,000 volumes; can you say what proportion of that number was composed of novels and works of fiction?—Not positively; but I think about one-fourth.

647. Colonel *Mure.*] Supposing that a very general distribution of the proposed selection of Parliamentary Papers was to be made to a number of institutions, many of them being of a very small compass or influence, and yet who are apparently zealous to attain them, and that they were for a year or two to take them in, do not you think, referring to the small use that you think has been made of them, and to the very great space that they would require, that a great number of these institutions would beg to be released from the privilege of receiving them?—I do not at all apprehend that they would withdraw. It would very much depend upon the terms under which they were allowed to enjoy the privilege. In my experience I remember several instances in which institutions have sold their Blue Books, which had been presented to them, and with the funds derived from the sale of them, they have purchased valuable books to put upon the library shelves, and within the covers of those books they have written down the name of the Honourable Member who presented them with the Blue Books as the donor of that particular book.

648. Suppose the privilege were to be conceded under the express condition that those books on no account were to be sold, but to form a part of their library, and not to be alienated at all, what would be the result then; would they not soon find that they had obtained a very cumbersome privilege?—There is a parallel case which I must refer to, that of the works connected with the Record-office; there were 24 large folio volumes given about 17 or 18 years ago to different institutions, and I know of seven cases where those books are put by in a cupboard, and are lying covered with dust; but the property in those cases is unalienable from the institution.

649. Are you speaking of a very small and almost insignificant institution, and, if so, do you think that they would be able or willing to provide cupboards to contain such an enormous accumulation of Parliamentary Papers of no use to them, and what they did not care to consult, as would be the case after the expiring of a series of years?—If there was a condition attached to the grant that they were not to alienate the property, they must fulfil the condition.

650. Do not you think that the fact of any institution continuing to take the Papers under those conditions, would be in some degree a test of the value which they attached to them, and of the reasonableness of extending to them the privilege of possessing them?—To some degree the best test would be the circulation, which would be regularly obtainable every six months afterwards.

651. Mr. *Michell.*] Is there not a great number of books in libraries that are never circulated, and which are kept merely for people to refer to occasionally?—Yes, the earlier biographies and histories.

652. Is there not in almost all the regulations and rules of literary societies this rule: that should a distribution take place, all books and articles should be returned to the donors?—In a very few cases; and I have examined the rules of about 500 institutions.

653. You

653. You think that it would be necessary to have that as one of the rules, provided Parliamentary Papers were to be distributed?—Supposing the Imperial Legislature to be the donor.

654. If those books could be sent out with very little expense to the Government, would it not be desirable to send them out through the Post-office?—Undoubtedly. On behalf of the institutions of Lancashire and Cheshire I may say that it was decided at a meeting held specially to consider this subject, last Saturday week, that it would be desirable to have the Papers in the smaller institutions, as a question arose, whether they should apply or not, provided they could not be obtained free of postage, and it was suggested that the best mode, provided the House of Commons were not disposed to sanction the sending them free of post, was that, in that case, they might be sent to the Society of Arts, with which most of the institutions are now connected, and from that Society they might be sent on to the respective local unions; to the Yorkshire and Northern Unions, and to the Institutional Association of Lancashire and Cheshire.

655. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that at the last meeting of the Yorkshire Union a general desire was expressed, and resolutions were passed, stating their anxiety to have the Parliamentary Papers?—I have seen a report to that effect, and remember their proceedings in connexion with this subject 12 months back.

656. Are you aware that the Board of Health and the Committee of Council on Education, and the department of Practical Art, and other departments, now distribute their Papers to the institutions in connexion with the Society of Arts?—Yes.

657. Have you the means of knowing whether those Reports are properly appreciated by those societies to whom they are distributed?—They are looked to very generally. I have seen members in small institutions turning over those Reports with a very great deal of interest, because the custom in all mechanics' institutions is to place all new books and Papers upon the table of the library or news-room for a certain time.

658. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Would it not be a great advantage if those books were sent direct from the House of Commons by post?—Undoubtedly.

659. They would be very much more highly estimated, would they not, if they could have them immediately on publication?—Undoubtedly.

660. Mr. *Drummond.*] You have spoken of books published by the Record Commission; do you know the contents of them?—Yes.

661. You are aware that very few persons are likely to take an interest in publications of that kind?—Yes.

662. They are mostly antiquarian or heraldic, or something of that sort?—Yes.

663. But that is no fair criterion as to the way in which Reports from the Committees of the House of Commons would be estimated?—No, but there are some cases in which Parliamentary Blue Books have also been sold in large quantities from institutions. Mr. Mark Phillips, who, when a Member of Parliament, was one of the best friends of the Manchester Athenæum, many years ago presented 40 volumes to it unconditionally, and those volumes were upon the shelves for seven years; for three years afterwards they were in the cupboards covered with dust, and then they were sold for 1½*d.* per pound. They have been in the catalogues from that hour to this, but they have never once been asked for. These were the titles: Bank of England Charter; folio, 1832. Copyright Designs; folio, 1840. Duke of Bridgwater's Canal Acts; folio. East India Company's Proceedings in regard to the Culture and Manufacture of Cotton Wool, Raw Silk, and Indigo; 8vo., 1836. Excise Establishment; 3 vols., folio. Factory Inquiry Commission; 2 vols., folio, 1833-4. Railways for Ireland; 1 vol., folio, and 3 vols. Maps, 1830. Dissenters' Chapels Bill; 8vo., 1844. Charities for the County of Lancaster; folio, 1841. National Monuments and Works of Art; folio, 1841. Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Classes; 8vo., 1842. Chadwick's Supplement to the Foregoing; 8vo., 1843. State of Large Towns, First Report; folio, 1844. Gaols Reports; folio, 1836. A Digest of the Evidence on the Bank Charter.

664. These are subjects which you naturally suppose would be of interest to mechanics?—They were presumed to be so.

665. Mr. *Drummond.*] But nobody took any interest in those subjects?—Not the slightest.

666. Can you state of what the library of that institution is composed?—It consists of 15,000 volumes; it has a very rich proportion of works on mental philosophy

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philosophy and standard English literature; it is also unusually strong with regard to history, biography and voyages and travels.

667. And, amongst those, which are the books most read?—Novels; they form one-third of all the institutions in the North of England; in some instances, as in Edinburgh, they form one-half; but I ought to be allowed to state, that the three sections of history, biography, and voyages and travels, being considered as equivalent to novels, is equal to the same amount; so that if you add the standard literature to that, you then have a larger amount of works of real value read than you have of works of fiction.

668. Mr. *Brotherton.*] That is a comparison of a number of works of each class?—Yes, as issued.

669. That is not a comparison of the amount of time devoted to those two kinds of reading?—Certainly not.

670. *Chairman.*] The 40 volumes which you said were presented by Mr. Mark Phillips, and which have lain neglected, and which were afterwards sold, appear to have been a miscellaneous collection, and a great many of them of old date?—Yes; exactly.

671. Does not it occur to you that that may have accounted for the way in which they were neglected?—That does not satisfy me as to apathy on the part of members generally; because, where they are desirous to have a particular report, it is very readily obtained.

672. You stated just now, that Reports from the different departments, when sent down to those institutions by the Society of Arts, are generally appreciated?—They have been, so far as has yet been shown.

673. Do you not think that a judicious selection of Parliamentary Inquiries and Papers would be of equal interest if sent at the time they were published?—Yes, of equal interest; because this is the interest arising out of examination, and not like the interest excited by taking them out of a lending library; those Reports of the Board of Health are placed upon the tables, and examined as novelties or as new works.

674. They are examined, and whether taken out and read or read in the room it would be the same thing if they excite an interest?—It is a different kind of examination, a cursory view of a work which is placed on the table, and that which is applied for to be taken home.

675. Mr. *Ewart.*] You mean, that if those works had been put on the shelves they would not have been taken down?—Yes; but being on the table they are looked into.

676. Colonel *Mure.*] Do not you think that the object, with regard to such Reports as are usually comprehended under the head of Parliamentary Papers, is more that of being referred to at the time when the subject they relate to is of immediate interest, and of being turned over in the way you speak of, than of being actually taken down, immense folios, and read through as you would read a novel or an interesting history?—Undoubtedly.

677. If those Parliamentary Papers, being sent down to the different institutions, lay on the table, and were a good deal consulted as to all the subjects of interest which they contained at the time, would not the object be in a great measure gained?—If they were satisfied with that mere view of it; but they would not be satisfied with a work of history in that way; our newspapers are read much more attentively.

678. Many of these Papers are like dictionaries, such as Population Returns, and which, I presume, mechanics would not think of reading through; but there is another class of Papers coming out from time to time on subjects of immediate interest, which are moved for by Honourable Members, on all sorts of subjects, which are of universal interest; do not you think that if these were transmitted from time to time they would be a very great boon to the intelligent classes in the provinces and small towns?—I think they would be referred to in this manner, and referred to with a great deal of interest; but that is a very different thing from actual reading; then you must consider whether you would actually fetter them with being bound to keep those books, if you are satisfied with that kind of cursory examination.

679. Do you think it desirable that those Reports to which I referred as coming out from time to time on miscellaneous subjects of universal interest should be placed at the disposal of the different institutions if they are anxious to have them?—Undoubtedly, in this way.

680. Mr. *Drummond.*] Are any of those books taken out of those institutions to be read, or must they be read in the institutions themselves?—Out of the 130 institutions in the wide district of Manchester, there are only seven that have anything like reference libraries.

681. Then the books are taken out, and read at home?—Always.

682. Have you any means of ascertaining the amount of time usually employed in reading any particular class of books?—That varies entirely as to the class of reading; you seldom get a work on mathematics back under 14 days, and it is sometimes renewed for a further seven days; in the ordinary calculation a three volume novel is devoured in four or five days.

683. How much time is allowed for works of history?—Ten days generally.

684. Mr. *Walter.*] The time is renewed, I suppose?—Yes; I am taking the average in cases of works of history, biography, and travels, and they generally keep them their full limit.

685. And works on mental philosophy?—They are not very extensively read; but it is seldom that a book is brought back until it has been actually renewed; I think the average for works of that class is perhaps, looking at Locke especially, 21 days.

686. As to works of history?—Ten days.

687. Colonel *Mure.*] Your general test of the importance or the interest that attaches to works in those institutions with which you have been connected, is the frequency and extent of their circulation amongst the members?—Exactly.

688. You of course can only apply that to readable works, and not to works of reference that very few people read through, but refer to now and then for information?—We have no test, no experience as to works of reference; the only experience is the experience which we shall derive through the means of our free libraries.

689. You have the experience of circulation, in so far as you have founded upon it in your evidence; do not you think that it is hardly fair to apply that experience to the Parliamentary Papers, as being works that are works of reference and of a nature that are generally, in many institutions, not allowed to be taken out because they are works of reference?—In a general way I rather class them in my own mind with works under what may be termed political economy and statistics; now to that class I look more for forming an idea as to what is the circulation of that class of reading, and I know it to be, having examined the subject, up to this time only as one in 150.

690. That is in reference to the circulation?—Exactly.

691. Do you think that such a work as M'Culloch's Commercial Dictionary is as much circulated and read through as a novel or a history would be?—It is a work not to be found in many of our mechanics' institutes libraries, but it is to be found in Liverpool and Manchester in three institutions; but in the case of the Athenæum it is a work of reference; and in the corresponding-room there, it is daily and hourly referred to.

692. Do you not think that M'Culloch's Commercial Dictionary is in many respects a volume of a very parallel nature with some of the more voluminous Parliamentary Returns that would probably not be allowed to be taken out, but which would be extensively consulted for the purpose of reference?—No, I look upon it as being more in character with that which is so much wanted, namely, a Digest of the Parliamentary Reports. The want is felt to such an extent, that many of the institutions purchase the Almanack and Companion, for the sake of that Parliamentary Digest; and Parliament would confer an immense boon upon all our Libraries if they would allow, say the Society of Arts, to make a digest of that description.

693. Take, for instance, the Population Returns of every year in which they are published, do you not think that a work of that kind would be one of very great interest to the poorer class; that they would like to see the amount of population in their own parish or in their own township, and that such Returns would interest them very much?—The interest is attached to their own locality and to their immediate circle, not beyond that; and for general purposes the Almanack and Companion is referred to, for the sake of population returns.

694. Do you not think, for instance, that a Lancashire man would like to have some idea of the comparative population of the different towns, of larger or smaller size with which he is familiar, and in the habit of hearing about every day, and between which and his own town there was a rivalry, perhaps as to

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their advancement in prosperity and the rate of their population?—We have never been asked in Manchester for any more voluminous record upon those subjects, than that which is to be found in Knight's Almanack and Companion, and that is constantly referred to as an authority.

695. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Is it not in the power of any party to undertake to make a general digest if he thought it would pay?—It is.

696. Mr. *Ewart.*] Would not that digest have this disadvantage, namely, that of coming out too late from the necessary labour attending its preparation, as the transitory character of the Parliamentary publications would almost have evaporated by that time?—I think not; on this account, that the newspapers are always in advance of any Parliamentary inquiry.

697. Mr. *Walter.*] Is the Annual Register taken in in any of the mechanics' institutes with which you are acquainted?—The Manchester Athenæum has it for 110 years; the Free Library possesses the work, but the Mechanics' Institution of Manchester does not; I only know of one instance in three years of that work being referred to.

698. *Chairman.*] Do you think that if a digest of the Parliamentary Papers was made it would be acceptable?—Most invaluable.

699. Your only objection to a general distribution is, that it would be too voluminous?—Yes, entirely.

700. Suppose a very small selection was made first, say four or five volumes in a year, do you not think that they might be distributed with advantage?—It is the condensation of the matter which makes a digest valuable.

701. Suppose a Report of a Committee of the House of Commons to inquire into the Manchester and Salford Education Bill, or of the Committee on Income Tax, or the Committee upon Destitute and Criminal Children, would not such Reports be of interest to the members of those institutions?—Undoubtedly of interest, but the main facts would be in possession of the members long previously, we think, through the newspapers.

702. Examinations by Committees of the House are not printed generally till the Committee be reported?—But when published, they find their way into some of the newspapers long before the Blue Books get to country places.

703. When you speak of a digest, you mean solely of Returns that are moved for in the House of Commons, you do not think that it would be possible to form a digest of all Inquiries in Committees in the House?—Yes; one or two of the more valuable Blue Books have been published in which I know that some scientific men in Manchester have only read the index, and they have considered it sufficient; such as the evidence of Sir Charles Barry and Dr. Reid, and some other parties, as to the ventilation of the House.

704. You do not think, do you, that it would be worth while to make a digest of all the Blue Books?—I do, but it would be under the discriminating influences of a committee.

705. Mr. *Ewart.*] Such a digest could not be finished until a certain time after Parliament had risen, and therefore it would come late, and be a laborious undertaking, would it not?—Yes; but we do not feel that in the Population Returns, and many other documents of great public interest.

706. Mr. *Fortescue.*] How do you account for the difference between the free libraries and mechanics' institutes; did you not say that in the free libraries there was a strong taste for this kind of reading, which you think does not exist in the mechanics' institutes?—Yes; when a person, whether a working man or belonging to another class of society, subscribes to a mechanics' institute, he is immediately aware of the contents of the library, and he is also aware of the poverty of the institution. He has no idea of asking that institution to provide him with reading, except of a certain class, and he goes and looks for a book, without reference to what book it is; but in the case of the free library, he goes there under the conviction that any book he wants he shall get.

707. And supposing he finds the book; you stated, did you not, that in some few cases, those Parliamentary Works had been presented to mechanics' institutes and had been neglected?—Yes.

708. Mr. *Ewart.*] If I understand you rightly, you stated that in consequence of the enlarged character of the free libraries, there was a greater resort of all classes of the population, and therefore there was a greater chance of readers being found in the free libraries than in the mechanics' institutions, the latter being limited to subscribers only?—Not quite so. In going into a mechanics' institution,

institution, a member goes there to get a novel or a work of history, and he knows that he must put up with a small library; but in going to a free library, he says, "This is a great municipal office, and I expect to find any work I want;" and here he may ask for some Parliamentary work, and is astonished if it is not there.

709. Mr. *Fortescue.*] But suppose he goes and finds these books in the library of the mechanics' institute, why, in that case, should he not take as much interest in them as if he were a member of a free library?—Then the only difference in that case, provided the mechanics' institute is supplied, would be this: that a party would say, shall I give 5 *s.*, or 2 *s.*, or 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to subscribe to that institution to see those public documents?

710. Then the difference would be in the number of persons to whom those books would be accessible?—Yes.

711. In the case of a free library, they would have a much better chance of being read from the larger number of persons into whose hands they would fall?—Yes; a free library comprises all classes of the community, therefore they would be read to a much greater extent; it also goes down to a lower class of the community than mechanics' institutes have yet touched, except in the first two or three years of their formation.

712. Mr. *Ewart.*] Do many more mechanics frequent the free libraries than frequent mechanics' institutions?—There are no mechanics proper frequenting mechanics' institutions, though they frequent the free libraries; for instance, in the immediate district in which the free library of Manchester is established, it has not had the slightest effect upon the number of members subscribing to other institutions, such as mechanics' institutions, nor has it affected the delivery of books from those institutions; but it has materially affected the keepers of public-houses and jerry-shops; and thus we know that the class of people belong to a lower grade of the community than those found in the mechanics' institutions.

713. Do you mean, by affecting the public-houses, that it has diminished the number of frequenters there, and that they resort to the free libraries?—The landlords complain that there is a considerable diminution; and we know as to the police returns in that district, that there is a very great improvement effected.

714. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Would the artisans, whom you have described as frequenting the free libraries, be as likely to make use of those Papers as the middle classes, who, in the main, constitute the members of mechanics' institutes?—I am inclined to think more so; there is a very great eagerness and thirst for information on the part of mechanics; it is a singular fact, but I have tested it in several of the larger and smaller institutions, that the lower you go down among the class of readers, the higher stands the proportion of good reading as against light reading, the larger institutions will not publish an annual return of their issues; we are almost ashamed in Manchester and Liverpool to publish a return; for in all our great institutions it is principally novels.

715. Mr. *Ewart.*] Did you ever read the Report of the Committee of the House on the establishment of Free Libraries?—Yes.

716. Do you remember that Mr. Van de Weyer makes this remark, as to the free libraries of Belgium, that the value of a book is tested in a long series of years, by the popularity of it among the working classes?—Yes; I noticed last year in Munich that there was a very large proportion in the principal free library of first class books that went out to workmen to be read.

717. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Have you ever attempted to obtain a return showing the number of novels taken out of a library as compared with works of another character, and also the amount of time devoted by the different members to the reading of novels and to the reading of books of a higher class?—I have not made any return of that kind; it could be made in the larger institutions without much difficulty.

718. Might you not find that such a Return as that would not be so discreditable to the readers as a mere comparison of the number of volumes?—There are other considerations that would be thrown in, such as desultory reading; in which you go over nearly double the amount of space.

719. A man might read 10 novels in the same time that he would be reading one book of a serious character, might he not?—Exactly; he does get through novels much more quickly.

720. *Chairman.*] In those free libraries, is any person admitted without any recommendation whatever?—He is admitted without recommendation into all

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reference libraries; but in cases where they have lending libraries, they require the name of two burgesses.

721. Mr. *Ewart.*] There is a clause in the Act of Parliament which makes them publicly accessible to every individual, is there not?—Yes, I believe so.

722. *Chairman.*] Are foreigners admitted?—Yes; there are many Greeks and Germans attending the free libraries of Manchester and Salford.

723. Is a beggar out of the street admitted?—We saw a great number of them attending in the news-room attached to the free library, in Manchester, in the first two or three weeks; now they come in immediately from their work, and some before they are washed.

724. Mr. *Walter.*] Are there lending libraries in connexion with the free libraries?—Yes; at Manchester the lending library is most successfully working.

725. Your opinion as to the class of reading to which the lower classes chiefly have recourse is founded upon the demands made upon the reading library?—No; it is formed upon my experience of smaller institutions in country villages and districts in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire. I have visited many of those institutions at different times, perhaps 150, and I have assisted them with lectures and advice.

726. It is not founded upon your own personal acquaintance with the working of the free libraries?—No, not entirely.

727. Mr. *Michell.*] Are most of those literary institutions approved and certified by Mr. Tidd Pratt, according to the 6th and 7th of Victoria?—Yes.

728. All of them?—Almost all of them; there is no difficulty in obtaining the certificate, and the fee is merely a guinea.

729. They cannot alter the rules after that has been done unless they are laid before him again?—No, but the certificate is not valued; the larger institutions are now paying their rates and taxes; the rating is compulsory, and it is only where the overseers are in favour of the institution that it is passed over.

730. When you spoke of those free libraries, you did not apply the remarks to small districts, I presume; if those papers were sent to the free libraries, would you consider that the smaller districts should then have them, for although there was not a sufficient population for a free library, the district might be very large?—I agree with the Secretary of the Newcastle-under-Lyne Institution, who finds, from his experience in Staffordshire, that it would be very desirable that one central institution should have the Papers, and the smaller ones could then at any time refer to them; that only bears out my proposal for Local Record Offices.

731. Mr. *Ewart.*] You think, perhaps, for the rural districts, an itinerating library might be of some service?—I know that they have been productive of a very great deal of benefit in Northumberland, and that we are now about establishing, in our Lancashire Union, six boxes of books for that purpose.

732. You are aware that there is a difficulty in extending free libraries to small towns, because it has been found desirable to connect the institution, for the sake of permanence, with a corporation, and, therefore, in those towns where there is no corporation, there would be a difficulty?—There is at present a difficulty, but in almost all towns that have not a corporation, they have some responsible officer; if not a boroughreeve, there is a high constable, who would undertake the charge, and he is a person selected and respected by the parties in the immediate district.

733. You are aware that it was endeavoured in the Act to provide for the permanency of those institutions by allowing a rate to be levied upon the inhabitants, if approved by the majority of the inhabitants?—Yes.

734. Would not the attempt to impose a rate upon those small towns very likely be encountered by a very strong opposition?—I think it would be as successful as our attempt in Manchester; I have no fear of our large towns in Lancashire and in Yorkshire; notwithstanding what has taken place in Sheffield, which is very well accounted for, we shall speedily have there free libraries.

735. Do you happen to know that the proposal to establish a free library at Sheffield was resisted by the rate-payers?—Yes; there were peculiar circumstances in this case; one circumstance arose out of a political reason, and the other in consequence of their having already an old library, called "The Sheffield Apprentices and Mechanics' Library," which was long presided over by James Montgomery, the poet. This library is a very valuable one, circulates amongst the working classes, and has been in operation much longer than mechanics' institutes; it was visited by Dr. Birkbeck before he established them in this country.

736. Colonel *Mure.*] You mentioned that you thought that the want in rural districts, where there were no large towns, of such free libraries, might be supplied by itinerant libraries; what would be the machinery by which such an itinerant library would be worked?—In this way: there is a local union, and the committee of that local union collects books, donations chiefly, and those donations are sent to the first mechanics' institution in the district, say the nearest. The books are allowed to remain there a given time, generally one month, then they are packed up by the secretary of that institution, and sent to institution No. 2, in the next village. In the course of three or four months the box No. 2, arrives at institution No. 1, and goes through the same course of progress. As fast as the committee can collect books they make up a box and forward them.

737. Although upon the whole you do not contemplate that much benefit would arise from sending these Papers to mechanics' institutions generally, you think that the mechanics' institutions themselves supply the best machinery by which itinerant libraries could be constructed and worked?—Yes.

738. Supposing that in a rural district of that description there were very few or no mechanics' institutions, there would be no such means of giving the same facilities of consulting the Papers?—I scarcely know any district or any county where that would be the case.

739. Your opinion is, that in those districts where there is no public library, or towns with a public library of inconsiderable size, a remedy might be provided, by availing yourselves of mechanics' institutions to create and circulate what are called itinerant libraries?—Undoubtedly.

740. *Chairman.*] Supposing that it were considered desirable to distribute a selection of those Parliamentary Papers, do you know of any other medium through which that could be done so usefully previously to the establishment of free libraries, as the mechanics' institutions or literary institutions?—I know no machinery at present in operation so well suited to receive the Parliamentary Papers as the mechanics' institutions, but I think it would be necessary that in any arrrangement for their distribution great care should be taken in their bestowal upon institutions, not so much as to the number of members or the population of the town, but the peculiar position of the mechanics' institution itself that was the applicant; I know of many of the institutions that have petitioned Parliament for those Papers, that are never opened until six or seven o'clock in the evening; the premises are used for schools during the day, and the mechanics' library is generally too small to afford the necessary accommodation; some evenings in the week it is occupied with lectures or classes, and cannot be used as a library.

741. You think that the condition should be laid down, that the library should be accessible throughout the day, and that there should be sufficient space to accommodate them?—Yes, the members.

742. Mr. *Michell.*] There should be a room expressly for the purpose of receiving those books, and those books only?—I think if they are desired they will find a room for them, and that it will be a benefit to the institution in various ways that it should be open during the day.

743. *Chairman.*] You are the author of a book called "The History of Adult Education," and in it you state the number of institutes in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland to be 702?—Yes.

744. And among them there are 408 news-rooms?—Yes; but some are only opened in the evening.

745. That was published in 1851, was it not?—Yes.

746. Have you any reason to suppose that the number of institutions have altered since that time?—They have increased I know; and there is a new class of institutions that has sprung up within the last year generally, which has somewhat the character of a small institute. They use a title known long before, namely, "Mutual Improvement and Discussion Society"; they are chiefly formed in the smaller towns, but we find them established in the suburbs of all our large towns to a greater extent than formerly: I have noticed in Birmingham, Leeds, and Manchester the mutual improvement societies that have been established there have increased to a considerable extent.

747. Mr. *Ewart.*] What are the objects of those societies?—Discussion chiefly.

748. On passing subjects?—Yes; political discussion forms the chief feature.

Dr. *J. W. Hudson.*

28 February 1853.

749. *Chairman.*] By whom are they frequented?—By young men of the lower section of the middle classes, young shopkeepers and young apprentices connected with manufacturing life, not working in mills or factories.

750. They are termed "Mutual Improvement Societies," are they not?—Yes.

751. Do they contain libraries?—They have only recently commenced; they are collecting small libraries, but they are not making the library an important feature; they have no funds for the purchase of books.

752. The great feature of those societies is discussion on political topics?—Yes, and general topics.

753. Mr. *Ewart.*] From your extensive knowledge of the question, should you say that great progress had been made in education and intelligence among the working classes of that part of the country with which you are connected?—In three or four portions of the community I should say so; but as to the lower class of mechanics and working men who have never been in those institutions, that class of working mechanics is still to be found at the beer-shop and the casino; but the class immediately above them, the smallest grade above the mill and common workshop, is the class that has greatly improved. The free libraries act as nurseries, and the managers, and those connected with mechanics and literary institutions, do their utmost to promote free libraries for various reasons: they know that the free library will catch the lower and working man; those belonging to the lowest portion perhaps of society; and they train him up, and he goes from the free library to the evening classes of the mechanics' institution. From that he may rise to a higher station, and will be then found in the Athenæum, as at Manchester. From that he either throws himself into domestic life, or else he joins the Philosophical Society. We can trace hundreds of young men who have risen in that way.

754. Mr. *Drummond.*] Do you ever lecture, yourself, in those institutions?—In the smaller mechanics' institutions, frequently.

755. Have you found, in your own experience, or that of others, that much benefit has been derived from lectures?—That depends upon the subject of the lectures; lectures generally have died off as a system that has been spoiled; but where a lecture is delivered to working men, explaining the facilities for acquiring any given branch of science or literature, referring to that more especially, when the lecture is not too lengthy, and given orally, there the working man takes a great interest, and the women take an interest; but in the larger institutions the lectures have all died off; we have given them up in Manchester, in Liverpool, in Newcastle, in Birmingham, and other towns; indeed, the only towns north of Rugby, in which lectures still attract, are Edinburgh and Leeds.

756. When you speak of lectures delivered to mechanics on their own business, do you mean lectures such as show the principle upon which their own mechanical operations are carried on, and which they do not understand?—No; those have always been failures.

757. For instance, upon metallurgy, the properties of the different kinds of iron, or the different ways of converting soft iron into steel, at Sheffield, for instance?—That would not attract at Sheffield; Mr. Warren is lecturing very successfully in London now upon the cotton manufacture, though it was a failure in Manchester and a partial failure in Glasgow; the Leeds Mechanics' Institution have expended large sums in endeavouring to give lectures that might apply to a particular branch of their trade some years ago, but that was also a failure; the people generally believe that they understand the subject in a practical way very much better than the lecturers.

758. Colonel *Mure.*] Do you think that the practice of gentlemen of rank delivering lectures has been beneficial to those institutions?—I do, because it has brought the middle classes to hold a better opinion of mechanics' institutions, and to assist them. I do not mean by that, purse assistance, but by giving their countenance. It is frequently the case when a nobleman, for instance, will deliver a lecture at a mechanics' institution, that the class that might be represented as the aristocracy of that town or village will for the first time hang round the institution; they then remember that they are vice-presidents, and so forth; they hang round the nobleman, and that brings them in contact with the institution, and the influence so produced lasts much longer than the lectures.

759. Do not you think that that may tend to interfere with the benefit derivable from the lectures of what may be called the professional lecturer, and that a community in the habit of being lectured to by gentlemen would have a distaste for

for the ordinary course of instruction that might be delivered by a professional lecturer, from having conceived a higher notion, and feeling a greater degree of interest in hearing a gentleman lecturer?—The practitioner is already excluded from our large towns, with the exception of the Royal Institution in Manchester; that is endowed for the purpose of giving lectures in the day, which are attended by from 50 to 150 persons.

760. Do you mean that a professional lecturer is excluded by the custom of the place, or that he is excluded by any actual regulation of the institutions?—No; parties will not attend lectures now, and therefore the lecturer does not obtain an engagement.

761. The novelty is worn off?—Yes, entirely.

762. The novelty of a gentleman lecturing is, probably, now the chief source of attraction?—Yes.

763. When gentlemen begin to lecture generally, which is now very much the case, the same result, probably, will ensue?—I do not expect that.

764. You think that the interest will be maintained much more permanently?—Yes; permanently.

765. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Have you observed that this mode of lecturing has any tendency to unite the classes, and to create a better feeling?—I think much more so than formerly. In fact, we can scarcely draw a line of distinction between the different classes in our large towns now.

766. Colonel *Mure.*] What is the proportion of what you call mechanics, and which I should rather define as working men, and persons in easy circumstances, who may be said to belong to the middle or upper classes, who are connected with institutions with which you are connected?—In the small towns, fully three-fourths belong to the labouring classes, and in the large towns not more than one-half.

767. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to collect from your evidence, that you consider that those mechanics and literary institutions are very valuable in promoting education among the middle and lower classes?—Undoubtedly.

768. You think that anything that would tend to their prosperity ought to be encouraged?—I think they are the most effectual instruments in doing intellectual good in the kingdom.

769. Are not you of opinion that the recognition of them by the State, so far as regards the distribution of Parliamentary Papers, would tend to promote their prosperity, and ensure their stability?—I do, so far as that; I have a strong opinion that the time will come when those institutions must be placed under municipal guardianship, or local guardianship of a more permanent character than that of their annually elected committees, for the sake of their trusts and property.

770. Do not you think that the free libraries have a tendency to bring the various classes of the community together, as persons of all descriptions come to read there?—I do not think it will have that effect, as in our large literary institutions they seldom speak.

771. They resort to one common place, and you find that persons of all classes, upper, middling, and the poorer class, all mingled together for the purpose of reading?—They are, so far; but it is like meeting in the street, they do not speak.

772. They do meet on a common point, and so far they are together?—Yes.

773. Have you any general observations to make to the Committee on this subject?—I should be glad to say that Manchester, so far as its libraries are concerned, stands far beyond any other provincial town in the kingdom. There are 42 private circulating libraries, containing 35,000 volumes; 16 public libraries, containing 177,200 volumes. Three special public libraries, namely, the Foreign Library, containing 7,000; the Law Library, containing 4,000; the Medical Library, containing 2,000, making together 13,000 volumes. So that there are 61 libraries in Manchester, containing 225,200 volumes; a much larger number than will be found in any other provincial town.

Jovis, 3° die Martii, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Tufnell.	Mr. Byng.
Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Brotherton.
Colonel Mure.	Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Headlam.	Mr. Michell.
Mr. Walter.	Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Fortescue.	

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY TUFNELL IN THE CHAIR.

Edward Edwards, Esq., called in; and Examined.

E. Edwards, Esq.

3 March 1853.

774. *Chairman.*] YOU are the principal Librarian of the Manchester Free Library, are you not?—Yes.

775. When was it established?—The first meeting to organize a free library was held on the 8th of January 1851; but previously to that date a subscription had been commenced, mainly by Sir John Potter, then Mayor of Manchester, who was encouraged to undertake the formation of a library, by the experience which had been obtained in Salford of the good working of the library established in that borough, in consequence of the investigations of the Committee on Public Libraries, which sat in the Session of 1849. Sir John Potter collected amongst his private friends and other eminent persons in Manchester, a subscription amounting to about 4,300*l.*, and the overseers of Manchester, who had long taken an interest in the subject, and had a strong desire to see a library formed, contributed from a fund at their disposal, 2,000*l.* more, making altogether about 6,300*l.* Then Sir John Potter called a public meeting, and a committee was appointed to canvass for further subscriptions, and to organize the institution. That committee went on for about a year and a half, and they raised the subscription ultimately to 12,730*l.* With that sum a building, which had been purchased before the holding of the public meeting, was adapted to the purposes of a library, both for reference and for circulation, in separate and distinct departments. A collection of books was formed, partly by purchase and partly by gift, and then, when so much had been done, a poll was taken of the burgesses of Manchester, under the provisions of Mr. Ewart's Act. At that poll 4,002 voters recorded their votes, 3,962 of them in favour of the adoption of the Act, and 40 against it. That poll was taken on the 20th of August 1852. On the 2d of September following the building and all its contents were formally handed over to the Town Council of Manchester, under the provisions of the Act, to be for ever maintained by the Corporation as a public library freely accessible to all persons.

776. Has a special rate been levied?—A special rate has not yet been levied. At present the Corporation are working the library out of the ordinary borough rate, but the reason of that is that they came into the management of the library in the middle of a financial year. As soon as a new financial year begins they will levy a separate rate, I suppose. I may state that their expenditure during the six months in which they have had the management of the library has been about 552*l.* The rate, according to the statement of the town clerk, recently made in the Council,—only a halfpenny rate,—yielding about 2,500*l.* a year.

777. Mr. *Ewart.*] It would yield that amount if it was put into operation?—Yes; a halfpenny rate, when levied for the special purposes of the library, will bring about 2,500*l.* a year, and that sum will increase rapidly, on account of the large yearly increase upon the general assessment of the borough.

778. *Chairman.*] When you speak of expenses, you mean for keeping up the building, lighting and fuel, and so on?—Nothing more than that at present. The powers of the Town Council do not extend further, but the Council are strongly impressed with a feeling of hardship, under that provision in the Act which excludes them from purchasing books, whilst they have a fund far more than sufficient merely to keep up the building, and to pay the ordinary expenses.

expenses of the establishment. At this time they have pending in Parliament a Bill, in which a clause is inserted, the object of which is to increase their powers.

779. Not to increase the rate?—No, merely to increase their power to deal with the rate. The Act is called "The Manchester Improvement Bill," and the proposed clause is this:—"It shall be lawful for the Council from time to time to apply any monies which they may lawfully expend upon public libraries and museums, in the purchase of books, maps, and charts for and to be deposited and kept in any public library within the borough."

780. Mr. *Ewart.*] That is all the change they propose to make in the Act?—It is not a change in the Public Libraries Act; it is simply a clause in our Local Act.

781. Colonel *Mure.*] When you speak of a large yearly increase of assessment in the borough, you mean, do you not, a large yearly increase of assessable property?—Yes, a large increase of the rental assessed to the ordinary borough rate.

782. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Is the clause you have referred to in the Act or in the Bill?—In the Bill.

783. In the Bill proposed to be passed this Session?—Yes, the Bill now pending in Parliament.

784. Mr. *Ewart.*] Was not some part of this subscription for the institution of the free library subscribed by the working men of Manchester?—Yes, and a very gratifying circumstance connected with the progress of that subscription was this, that about 800 *l.* was raised by the contributions of more than 20,000 persons who were employed in various industrial establishments, and were residing in all parts of the borough.

785. They took great interest in the question, did they not?—Very great; I may state that for a year the working men's committee met at the Town Hall weekly, and those meetings were attended nearly every week in the year.

786. *Chairman.*] Can you state the number of volumes that there are in their library now?—Yes; the library is in two distinct departments, one for reference or use in the building, and the other for circulation by lending. At the opening, the reference library comprised 16,013 volumes, and the lending library comrised 5,300 volumes. The reference library has since been increased by donations to about 16,800 volumes, and the lending library has been increased to 6,495 volumes. I ought to state to the Committee that the greater part of that increment is not the result of mere gifts of books, but is the result of the appropriation of various sums of money towards purchases by individuals, for the purpose of supplementing for a time that defect in the Act, which ties the hands of the Town Council. Amongst others, the present Mayor of Manchester has most liberally given me instructions to spend 100*l.* in the purchase of books, more especially for the lending library; another gentleman in the town, Mr. Heald, gave me 25 *l.* for the same purpose, and in that way purchases have actually been made of such books as were much wanted in the library; but the Committee, of course, will see that no such source of increase could be relied upon permanently.

787. Of what character are the books in the lending library chiefly?—When the library was opened there were 169 volumes in the class of theology and philosophy; 2,187 in the class of history; 266 in the class of legislation, politics, and commerce; 394 relating to mathematical and physical science, and the arts; and 2,289 in the class of literature, and collected works of authors, treating on more subjects than one, and therefore polygraphical, or properly belonging to several of the classes enumerated.

788. The last class includes, I presume, novels and works of fiction?—Yes, everything of a purely literary kind; essays, poetry and fiction, and collections of works of all descriptions, which embrace more than one of the other five classes. The reference library, at the opening, was composed of 665 volumes on theology and philosophy, 6,707 volumes on history, 2,705 on legislation, politics, and commerce, 1,310 in the sciences and arts, and 4,626 in literature and polygraphy.

789. Will you state which of those works in the lending library are most in demand?—The circulation of the lending library has always been predominant in the works of the last class, literature and polygraphy, and the majority of the volumes in that class would naturally be in the section poetry and fiction. I beg

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to hand in a Table, for three months, of the classification of books issued from the lending library.

[*The following Paper was handed in:*]

LENDING LIBRARY.—Classification of BOOKS issued, for First Month and last Two Months only.

DATE.	Theology.	Philosophy (Moral and Mental).	History (including Voyages and Travels and Biography).	Law, Politics, and Commerce.	Sciences and Arts.	Literature and Polygraphy: Poetry, Novels and Romances, Essays, Philology, Cyclopædias, Periodicals, Collective Works of Authors on various Subjects, Literary History and Bibliography.	TOTALS.
1852:	*Vols.*	*Vols.*	*Vols.*	*Vols.*			
September - -	49	43	1,022	43	269	2,302	3,728
1853:							
January - -	114	52	2,336	50	451	4,482	7,485
February - -	80	51	1,824	42	370	3,718	6,085
TOTALS - -	243	146	5,182	135	1,090	10,502	17,298

790. Have you a return of the demand for books in the reference library?—I have a complete return for each of the six months during which it has been opened, and I will hand this return in.

[*The following Paper was handed in:*]

LENDING LIBRARY.—Classification of BOOKS issued for the first Six Months.

DATE.	Theology.	Philosophy (Moral and Mental).	History (including Voyages and Travels and Biography).	Law, Politics, and Commerce.	Science and Arts.	Literature and Polygraphy: (Poetry, Novels and Romances, Essays, Philology, Cyclopædias, Periodicals, Collective Works of Authors on various Subjects, Literary History, and Bibliography).	TOTALS.
1852:	*Vols.*	*Vols.*	*Vols.*	*Vols.*	*Vols.*	*Vols.*	*Vols.*
September - -	127	174	3,143	360	932	2,815	7,551
October - -	88	174	2,964	279	821	2,356	6,682
November - -	95	171	2,760	278	858	3,001	7,163
December - -	82	164	2,145	216	845	2,478	5,930
1853:							
January - -	106	156	1,962	188	786	2,570	5,768
February - -	109	126	1,718	159	660	1,900	4,672
TOTALS - -	607	965	14,692	1,480	4,902	15,120	37,766

GROSS TOTAL - - - - - - - 37,766

I have not been able to make the lending library return complete from the difficulty there is in obtaining its register books, which are in constant use; but the reference library is classified daily.

791. In the circulating library is there any particular time allowed for reading the books?—The time varies according to the nature of the work, but it may be taken upon an average as about eight days; lighter works would be returnable in four days; works on history and books of a grave kind would be lent for a fortnight perhaps.

792. Mr. *Ewart.*] You have regulations with regard to the length of time for which a work is lent?—Yes, according to the class of the work.

793. Are the books very much worn from constant use?—On the whole the care which has been taken of them is most gratifying.

794. *Chairman.*]

794. *Chairman.*] The books are all bound, I presume?—The books for the lending library are invariably bound before they are issued, unless they happen to be in a good state when purchased.

795. In the reference library are most of the books bound?—There was no available fund for binding the books for the reference library; but in making purchases for that collection I selected works that were in good binding, and the consequence was, that of the 16,000 volumes placed in the reference library, probably not more than 3,000 or 3,500 required binding; this was of necessity postponed from the entire exhaustion of the funds at the disposal of the original committee; the corporation are now binding the arrears out of the ordinary fund.

796. Admission to the reference library is entirely free to every person, whether a stranger or a resident, is it not?—Absolutely free.

797. Mr. *Ewart.*] Is the applicant, on admission, required to put down his name or address?—We did so at first, but as regards the reference library, that has not been continued.

798. How do you find the public conduct themselves in consequence of this great privilege which is allowed them?—Extremely well; our entire experience during the six months has been very satisfactory in that respect.

799. *Chairman.*] Have you any return of the number of visitors every month to the reference library?—The number of visitors at the commencement of the institution was naturally very much larger than of late; at first an account was daily taken, and in September 58,166 persons visited the library; in October 49,379 persons; after that date the account ceased to be kept, and our present account is merely of the issues, whether in the reference library or in the lending department.

800. But you cannot state the number of readers as distinguished from the visitors to the reference library?—No, we cannot; but the number of readers will be very nearly that of the number of volumes issued; that is, the daily number of volumes issued will, within 50, and sometimes within 30, give you the number of readers, because the majority of them only ask for one volume; some ask for 10 or 12, but those form but a small proportion of the whole.

801. Mr. *Ewart.*] You have a new building, have you not, for the library?—No; it is a building which was originally erected under the auspices of Mr. Robert Owen, for purposes connected with his social views.

802. A Socialist Hall?—Yes; Robert Owen laid the first stone of it, but after a few years it got into circumstances of difficulty, and the original promoters of it ceased to have the management of the building, and it became a public nuisance in Manchester; and that was one of the reasons why the overseers were so anxious to second the efforts of Mr. Potter to establish a free library upon a permanent basis.

803. Is it a well arranged building for the purposes of the library?—It was thoroughly adapted for it. The purchase of it cost 1,200 *l*, and the adaptation and fitting up of it cost about 4,800*l*. more.

804. *Chairman.*] Is it built on freehold ground?—It is. Sir Oswald Mosley, who was formerly lord of the manor of Manchester, had a chief rent upon that building, and for that chief rent, after it was estimated by the corporation surveyors, he accepted one half the value, namely, 913*l*., and the other 913*l*. he presented as a contribution towards the establishment.

805. Mr. *Ewart.*] What is the size of the rooms in the library?—Here is a plan to scale of the principal library, which also shows the arrangement of the books, and the method adopted of classifying them. I will hand this plan in.

806. Does it give the length of the rooms?—It gives the scale, and it is estimable in a moment or two.—(*The same was handed in.*)

807. It is a very large room?—Yes, and very suitable to the purpose; and I believe it is one of the best rooms devoted to the use of a library which is to be found in this country, out of London and the university towns.

808. Is the reading-room separate from the library?—It is not; the lending department and the reference department are on different floors of the building.

809. *Chairman.*] How many readers can you accommodate in the reading-room?—We have space in the library used as a reading-room for about 400 readers, or for nearly that number.

810. And that is open all the day, and part of the night?—It is open invariably from 10 in the morning till nine in the evening. The rules and regu-

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lations, which I ought to state are only provisional, the Town Council not having yet revised them, I will now hand in.

[*The same was handed in, and are as follows :*]

MANCHESTER FREE LIBRARY.

Corrected Draft of Provisional Rules and Regulations, prepared by the Original Committee, October 1851.

1. The librarian shall have the general charge of the libraries, and shall be responsible for the safe keeping of the books, and of the other property.

2. The library of reference shall be open to the public gratuitously every day, Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday excepted, from the hour of 10 in the morning to the hour of nine in the evening; and the lending library from the hour of 12 at noon to the hour of two in the afternoon, and also from the hour of six to that of nine in the evening, except on Saturdays, when the lending library shall be open from 12 at noon until nine in the evening.

3. Every person, on entering the library of reference, or the lending library, shall write, or cause to be written, his or her name and address, in a book to be provided in each room for that purpose; and it shall be the duty of the person in charge of each department respectively, to see that this regulation is invariably complied with; and such signature shall be taken and considered to be an assent to these rules and regulations, and without it no person shall be allowed to obtain any book.

4. No person shall be admitted who is intoxicated, or in an uncleanly condition; nor shall any audible conversation be permitted in the libraries; nor shall any person be allowed to partake of refreshments therein; and any person who shall offend against these regulations, or shall be guilty of any other misconduct, shall not be allowed to remain within the building.

5. No person shall be allowed to pass within the enclosure in the lending library, or to take any book from the shelves of the reference library, except by permission of the librarian; and no book or other article shall be taken out of the reference library.

6. Two or more catalogues shall always be kept in the reference library for the use of the readers; and the librarian shall enter, or cause to be entered, in a book to be provided for that purpose, the title of every book delivered to a reader for perusal, and each reader shall sign a receipt for every book so delivered, and shall, before leaving the room, return such book or books into the hands of the librarian or of his assistant.

7. Two or more catalogues shall also be provided for the use of the public in the lending library; but no person shall be allowed to borrow a book from the library, without first obtaining the signatures and addresses of two inhabitant ratepayers, whose names shall be on the burgess roll either of Manchester or of Salford, to the following voucher:

"We, A—— B——, of , in the , and C—— D——, of , declare that we believe E—— F——, of , in the , to be a person to whom books may be entrusted for perusal, without fear of loss or injury; and we hereby undertake to replace any book belonging to the Manchester Free Library which shall be lost or materially injured by the said E—— F——.

(signed) _____

"Dated this day of , 18 ." (signed) _____

"When either of the parties who may have signed this engagement shall desire to withdraw from it, he must give notice thereof in writing to the librarian, who will give a release as soon as he shall have ascertained that no liability has been incurred."

This voucher must have been delivered to the librarian three days before the first issue of books to the person recommended; and all books borrowed must be returned to the library within the time specified on the respective covers thereof; and if in any case six months shall have elapsed between the due return of a book lent and the application for another, then a fresh voucher must be produced, as on the first application.

8. The librarian shall carefully examine, or cause to be examined, each book returned, and if the same be found to have sustained any damage or injury, or to have been rendered of less value by being soiled or written in, he may require the person to whom the same was delivered, or the burgesses on whose guarantee it was lent, to pay the amount of the damage or injury done; or otherwise to procure a new copy of equal value; and in the latter case, such person shall be entitled to the damaged copy on depositing the new one.

9. If any person to whom a book shall have been delivered in the reference library shall not re-deliver the same to the librarian or his assistant before leaving the room, or if any borrower shall not return to the lending library, within due time, the book or books lent to him, or shall refuse or neglect to pay on demand the amount of any loss, damage, or injury, or to procure another copy, as before mentioned, then the amount of such loss, damage, or injury, or the value of such book, shall be recoverable from the person or persons aforesaid, as a debt, in any action or proceeding applicable to the recovery of debts of like amount, in which action or proceeding the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Manchester shall be the plaintiffs; and the fact of their being the persons entitled, shall be taken to be admitted by the defendant.

10. The

10. The two last preceding rules shall likewise be enforced, so far as the same are applicable, in cases where any damage or injury shall have been done to any other property in the libraries or other parts of the building.

11. The librarian shall have power to refuse books to any reader or borrower who shall fail to observe the rules and regulations of the library; but any person so refused shall have liberty to appeal to the Library Committee.

12. No person under the age of 14 years shall be admitted to the reference library.

Edward Edwards,
Principal Librarian.

811. These rules and regulations apply both to the reference and to the circulating library?—Yes; they apply to both departments.

812. When is the greatest attendance of readers at the library?—The greatest attendance of readers of a superior social position is in the mornings, but the greatest attendance of readers belonging to the operative and artizan class is in the evening.

813. Mr. *Ewart.*] Do many artizans attend in the evening?—A very large number.

814. And they seem to enjoy and profit by the library?—Very much so. A great many come merely for amusement, to pass the time away, but many others, of the class of artizans and operatives of various kinds, come with the settled purpose of reading consecutively, and many are known, working men, to come for months night after night, reading either the same book or a book on the same subject.

815. *Chairman.*] Are any newspapers or periodicals taken in at the library?—At present there is a news-room which is supported by voluntary contributions entirely; no part of the charge is laid upon the Corporation.

816. Mr. *Ewart.*] The great object was to establish a library upon a foundation that would last as long as Manchester itself?—Yes, and I believe that that object is secured by the excellent Act which was passed as the Libraries Act of 1850.

817. *Chairman.*] You have stated that the admission to the reference library is quite free. Will you now state what regulations are enforced with regard to the circulating library?—The lending library is open and accessible to every person who shall produce a voucher or form of guarantee signed by two burgesses either of Manchester or Salford, and that guarantee vouches for the respectability of the applicant, and undertakes to compensate the corporation for any loss which may accrue from his use of the lending library.

818. Practically, have the books been at all damaged, or has no loss been experienced?—We have not yet thoroughly examined them; the library having been uninterruptedly open from the 6th of September till yesterday; yesterday the library was closed, for the purpose of making a thorough examination of the books, and that is now going on. I stayed till the latest hour to see what I could of it, and, as far as I could observe, during yesterday, I found that the condition of the books was, in the main, very satisfactory.

819. Mr. *Ewart.*] In most of these libraries, I presume, some loss is incurred, and that that is the experience of continental libraries generally?—That has been the experience of the continental libraries always; there is a certain amount of wear and tear, which the best regulations will not suffice to prevent.

820. Perhaps you remember that M. Guizot stated, when he was examined before the Committee on Public Libraries, that the loss which was incurred was nothing whatever in comparison with the immense advantages given to the people by the establishment of such public libraries?—I do remember that he made that statement, and I recollect also to have noticed in the various foreign Returns which were obtained through Lord Palmerston, that similar statements were very frequent; in the majority of cases I noticed the statement, that the wear and tear of the books was inconsiderable in comparison with the great benefits which were believed to result from the lending system.

821. Yours is the only public library in the world, is it not, which is open in the evening, except those in France, that of St. Geneviève at Paris, and those at Amiens, Lyons, and Rouen?—I do not myself know of any library in Europe which is open so late as ours, except those you have mentioned. The opening of libraries in the evening is, I believe, not infrequent in the United States.

822. *Chairman.*] Are you able to state anything respecting any other free library in England?—The Committee are aware that the Manchester Free Library was preceded by the library at Salford, called the Royal Salford Borough

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Library; that was in connexion with a museum established under the old Museums Act, which is now repealed.

823. Mr. *Ewart.*] There was a library established also at Warrington, under the Museums Act, was there not?—Yes, and that library is kept up now by a rate; it was originally founded by private effort in the last century, and it has now been adopted by the corporation.

824. They applied the old Museums Act to the purposes of the library?—Yes; and they also maintain a museum of some sort now.

825. Considering that the Museums Act was applicable to the library?—Yes.

826. To remove all doubts, the Libraries Act was brought in?—Yes.

827. Colonel *Mure.*] What is the principle upon which books are allotted respectively to the reference library and to the lending library?—The original committee entrusted me with the duty of selecting the books for the lending department; and the first principle upon which I went was to set aside such books as we possessed two copies of, reserving the best copy, and, in some instances, the best editions only, for the reference library, and putting the more popular and less costly editions or copies in the lending library; in addition to that, certain popular collections and serials, such as those published by Bohn, which are very valuable, were purchased expressly for the lending library.

828. Is it not rather an unusual thing in a public library, that the books in the reference department should be so much more numerous than in the circulating or lending department?—That, I think, is a matter of necessity, from the fact that you cannot meet the wants of the readers who resort to a reference library, without a much larger collection than will go very far, at least for a long time to come, to meet the wants of the majority of the persons who use a lending library.

829. Mr. *Ewart.*] You want, do you not, in the reference library, dictionaries, and a great number of books of reference?—Yes, and you ought to aim at something like a complete collection in certain important departments. The principle I acted on in the formation of the Manchester reference library was, that it should be well furnished in certain great sections; selecting in other sections of literature, only the most indispensable works, and leaving to future effort the bringing of them up to a similar position; and in that way we have in the reference library a very important collection of works on British history; probably nearly 5,000 out of the 16,000 volumes relate to that one subject.

830. Colonel *Mure.*] In point of fact, the signification of the term "reference," in the Manchester library, is that the works in that department are reserved for the reading of members within the library itself, being virtually of the same general character as the works that are allowed to circulate?—That is only so partially; the collection in the reference library is of a superior character, and one object in forming it was, to make accessible to persons of all classes in the town works which are not anywhere accessible to them now, except by purchase.

831. What is the principle upon which the acquisitions to either department of the library in respect to the various descriptions of literature are made, as given in your Table; is it made under the management of a committee?—Yes, under the management of a provisional committee, which ceased to exist when the Town Council came into possession of the library.

832. What is the body which now decides upon the class of books that are to be taken as augmentations or acquisitions to the library?—There is no opportunity for acquisition, except by individual gift, as respects either department of the library now; it wholly depends upon accident for its augmentation; that is complained of universally in all those towns in the north where they have formed libraries, or are forming them, as a great defect in the Public Libraries Act, and one which all persons who are promoting such libraries strongly believe that the House of Commons ought to remedy, by some general alteration in the Act; not leaving it, as in the instance of Liverpool and Manchester, to local Acts to deal with the case in each individual instance.

833. Even in the case of donations you have somebody, have you not, to sit in judgment upon the nature of the donations in case there should be works which it was not desirable to have in the library?—Yes; the practice pursued is to report to the ordinary committee of the Town Council, appointed for the management of the library, all the works that are presented; but no question has yet arisen about the acceptance of any such works.

834. Mr. *Ewart.*] Has any other amendment been suggested by experience with regard to the framing of the Act?—I believe that the experience of the persons who endeavoured to bring the Act into adoption in Sheffield led them to the opinion that it was rather a mistake in the framing of the Act that any borough should be prohibited from re-entertaining the question for two years. In Sheffield they would very gladly have an opportunity of reconsidering their decision, which, I believe, was mainly influenced by accidental circumstances, which might not have recurred upon a rehearing of the matter. They were anxious that they should have an early opportunity of again going to the poll upon that question; but at present they must wait two years. I have heard the same thing mentioned as to Birmingham; there it has been felt by the promoters of the free library to be somewhat of a hardship that for two years their hands should be tied.

835. *Chairman.*] In the free library at Manchester, is there a collection of Parliamentary Reports and Papers?—A very imperfect collection, although I personally took very great pains to form one, believing from experience that it would be very useful in such a library to have a good collection of the literature of commerce and legislation. With that view, I drew up lists of the Reports and other documents that were deemed desirable for acquisition; those lists the committee approved of, and they were circulated to some extent amongst Members of Parliament, and persons who were thought likely to facilitate the obtainment of such documents, but I am sorry to say with very small success. The honourable Member for Dumfries took great pains to help us, by conference with the Speaker and other officials, about the grant of such Papers; but we did not obtain them except in a few cases by donations from individual Members.

836. Is there any demand for books of that description?—There has been a considerable demand, and in most cases it has been for books and documents which we have not possessed. Those which I took pains to obtain were upon such subjects as those named in the report which I submitted to the committee, with a view to the formation of a library. Lists of Parliamentary documents were introduced upon the subjects named in the following list. [*The same was delivered in.*] Of the works enumerated in the list thus drawn up and circulated, a very small proportion was obtained; but so important did I feel the obtainment of those documents for the library, that I sought authority from the committee to purchase some of them, a very small proportion of the whole, but still a proportion which obviously went to diminish the sum available for the purchase of general literature. Amongst the purchases that were so made were "Porter's Tables of Revenue, Population, and Commerce;" a series of the Charity Commissioners' Reports; and a few Papers on Banking, and some other subjects; but we found that it was not possible to obtain many by those means. The sum available for the purchase of books out of the whole subscription was but 4,000*l.*, 7,000*l.* having been absorbed in the building. Of that 4,000*l.* very little could be afforded for documents of this kind, however strongly the committee and I were convinced of their importance, and thus we have been deprived of a great many important works of that class, which have been very frequently asked for.

Vide Appendix.

837. Mr. *Hutt.*] What class of Parliamentary Papers do you find most in demand?—Those relating to such subjects as emigration and the colonies; financial and monetary subjects, to a less extent; tariffs; and patents for invention. Parliamentary books relating to all these topics have been very much asked for, and in them we have been very deficient.

838. *Chairman.*] Do you receive at the library reports from any public boards?—We have received several valuable donations from such boards. Applications were made to all the public departments of State and public boards, for a grant of their respective publications, but with very different success. In some cases the application was acceded to, and in others it was declined; and it happened in one case, when a similar application was addressed on the same day to two of the Secretaries of State, one of them acceded to the request, and granted the publications asked for, and the other refused, stating that he saw no reason why the public should be compelled to pay the cost of furnishing the library with documents of that nature, unless he had distinct authority from Parliament to that effect. Lord Grey gave us a very important collection of Colonial documents; and the Duke of Newcastle, on my application, has within the last week or two very kindly continued that collection as regards the subsequent Papers on the Colonies.

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839. Do you think, supposing an institution like the library referred to, were to receive a grant of Parliamentary Papers, that they should have the whole that are published?—I think that, for a library like ours, it would be important that we should have all; I believe that a great majority of the whole would be some time or other of great service.

840. Are you aware of the bulk of the Papers?—I am very familiar with the Parliamentary Papers, from my own frequent use of them in past years.

841. Are you aware that there are about 60 volumes every year?—Yes.

842. Do you think that there would be sufficient accommodation found for that number of volumes?—I believe the committee and Town Council would be very glad to provide all necessary accommodation for keeping them in thoroughly good and accessible order.

843. You are aware that they would be almost useless unless they were bound and lettered?—They ought to be bound; and, I think, to be carefully classed as well. For the purposes of a library like ours, it would not be a good plan to adopt the practice which is adopted in this House, of arranging them sessionally, according to the consecutive number of Papers. I think the best plan is to class together and bind together those that relate to similar subjects; and I believe one reason why such documents have not been more useful in many institutions which have possessed them, has been the neglect of that; and the neglect of properly cataloguing them; it is quite common in libraries and in various institutions that have occasionally had Blue Books, to find all of them entered together in the catalogue, no matter what their subjects were; so that a person taking up the catalogue, and looking under a particular head, would not find, under that head, so much of the information which the library possessed on that subject as was comprised in the Parliamentary documents.

844. Besides the free library at Manchester, there are literary institutions and mechanics' institutions in the town?—Several.

845. Can you state, from your own knowledge, whether any wish has been expressed by those institutions to have a certain number of Parliamentary Papers?—I have conferred with the persons connected with the Mechanics' Institution at Manchester, who express a very strong desire to have such documents, but who do not wish for a grant of all; they prefer a selection upon certain important subjects.

846. Do you think that that is the general feeling of such institutions?—Yes; I think it is, as respects the institutions which are either proprietary or supported by voluntary subscriptions.

847. That they should have a limited selection of Parliamentary Papers?—I think that is their wish; I believe that in some cases, where they would gladly accept them, they would not willingly incur any expense; that, I know, is the feeling expressed at the Portico Library in Manchester, to which, some time ago, the Commissioners of Records granted certain publications, on only one condition, that they should be perpetually preserved; so that if the institution were by any circumstance broken up, they must be returned. The authorities at the Portico Library would gladly accept of the Parliamentary Papers on a similar condition, but they would not willingly be chargeable with any expenses connected with their transmission.

848. Not either for postage, or for carriage by railway?—I think not as respects that library; I do not think that there would be any difficulty about paying postage in the case of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution, if they had such a selection of documents as they seek.

849. Mr. *Hutt*.] Was not it a condition imposed by the Record Commissioners at the time they granted these Reports, that free access should be had to them on the part of the public?—I think it was not so; for instance, in this case of the Portico Library, at Manchester, I asked only yesterday whether they would accept of the Parliamentary Papers if they were sent to them, on condition that at certain reasonable times everybody should have access to them, and they said "No, we would rather not have them on that condition." I imagine that the Record publications, which have been there for many years, must have been given obviously without any such injunction, because they do not allow any one unconnected with the institution to have access to them, unless by special favour. I believe, on the other hand, that many libraries would most gladly pay any charges connected with the transmission of the publications of certain Boards and Departments of State; for instance, such publications as those which

which are issued under the Commissioners of State Papers, which are of a very valuable character, and should be in every library; in every library that aims at possessing a good historical collection they are indispensable. I do not believe there would be any objection connected with the transmission of the collection of the State Papers of Henry VIII. for example.

850. What is the letter which you hold in your hand?—It is from the State Paper Office. We sought to obtain a grant of the collection of State Papers, now extending to 11 volumes, relating to the reign of Henry VIII. An application was made by the late Mayor of Manchester, in 1851, to Mr. Hobhouse, and he replied, that he could not grant the Papers without obtaining the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Home Department. He then promised to lay the application before the Secretary, but we never obtained the Papers, nor any statement why they were not granted. More recently we have received a letter from Mr. Lemon, informing us that the Papers may be had by purchase. I think this deserving of notice, because the statement to a library, which is prevented by Parliament from expending any money in the purchase of books, that certain public documents may be had for purchase, is an obvious absurdity. Parliament prevents town councils from buying books, and then books printed at the public cost are refused to a library for the alleged reason, that they may be obtained for payment.

851. Are you aware of the expense of the books?—They are obtainable at the terms of 10*s.* 6*d.* per volume; five guineas and a half for this one publication; and there are many other public Papers in a similar condition.

[*The following Letters were handed in*:]

"State Paper Office,
"Sir, March 22, 1851.

"I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, transmitting a printed report of the proceedings of a public meeting lately held at Manchester, for establishing a free library and museum in that city, and soliciting copies of such public documents and other Government publications as I may be disposed to favour the establishment with.

"I have the honour to inform your Worship that the only Government publication which passes through my hands is that of the "State Papers in the Reign of King Henry VIII.", which is conducted by several Commissioners, of whom I am one, and that I will at the next meeting of the Commissioners, lay before them your Worship's letter, and that the principal portion of my public duty is to keep and preserve official papers transmitted to this office by the several Secretaries of State, which I am bound by my oath of office not to disclose to any person, unless he be a Privy Councillor, without the permission of Her Majesty, which is usually granted by one of the principal Secretaries of State.

"I have, &c.,
"To John Potter, Esq., (signed) *H. Hobhouse.*"
Mayor, Manchester."

"State Paper Office, Duke-street, Westminster,
"Sir, 29 December 1852.

"I THINK it my duty to acquaint you that six volumes of State Papers, viz., Vols. 6 to 11, have been recently published, being the concluding portion of the Papers of Henry the Eighth's reign, comprising the correspondence of the English Government with foreign courts, during that monarch's reign.

"On the publication of the 4th and 5th volumes, in the year 1838, the Commissioners for printing and publishing State Papers, with the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, made an extensive gratuitous distribution of those volumes to various foundation schools, scientific societies, public libraries, and literary institutions; but on the present occasion their Lordships, after mature consideration, have found reason to alter that course, and instead of making presentations on so extensive a scale, they are of opinion it will be much more beneficial to the public at large that the work should be offered for sale at a price so moderate (regardless of the cost of its production), as to be within the reach not only of all scientific institutions and subscription libraries, but also of many individuals engaged in literary pursuits, to whom it is very desirable that such a work should, if possible, be brought within the compass of their means.

"I have, therefore, to acquaint you that the whole work, or any portion of it, is now published at the uniform rate of 10*s.* 6*d.* per volume; at which price it is to be obtained of Mr. Butterworth, No. 7, Fleet-street, London, who is the publisher, by appointment, of the works of the Record Department.

"I am, &c.
(signed) *Robt. Lemon*,
"Edward Edwards, Esq., "Sec. Com. State Papers."
"Free Public Library, Manchester."

852. *Chairman.*] You stated that you considered it would be very desirable for the mechanics' institutions and Literary Institutions to have a selection of Parliamentary

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mentary Papers and Reports?—Yes, very advantageous to many of them, especially to those that are in a tolerably flourishing condition. I do not think it would be of any advantage to a struggling mechanics' institution, because the unavoidable charge of preserving those Papers efficiently, and providing shelves for them, would become a burden to those institutious where there is already great difficulty in meeting the current expenses.

853. Supposing it were considered necessary at first, as an experiment, to send them to a very limited number of institutions, can you suggest to the Committee in what way it would be most advisable to lay down a rule?—I think, that as respects such institutions it would probably be found a useful rule to lay down, that application should be made for such Papers as they really required or desired to have.

854. My question had reference rather to the laying down some rule by which institutions should be selected, to which they should be sent in the first instance?—The best rule for that clearly would be to take those most securely established, and which shall by their present position afford a prospect of permanence; and which also possess a considerable number of members to be benefited by such additions to the library.

855. You would take the number of members as the principle upon which you would act?—Yes, I would take that, at all events, as one element in deciding the selection.

856. Mr. *Ewart.*] The permanency of the institution, you think, would be the first question?—Yes; and a tolerably satisfactory state of the finances of any particular institution would form another important element.

857. *Chairman.*] Would you inquire whether the building was deeply mortgaged, or whether it was in the possession of the institution itself?—I think that would be most important; I know cases of subsisting mechanics' institutions, the continuance of which from year to year is very uncertain; they are so involved in debt that they are liable at almost any moment to be abandoned.

858. Would you have the Parliamentary Papers accessible to any persons besides those who subscribe to the institution?—I think it would be a most reasonable condition to lay down, that if the institutions are furnished, at the public charge, with any works, those works, at all events, should be accessible at reasonable times to all the community.

859. It would be necessary then, would it not, to impose the condition that they should be placed in a particular room, apart from the general library?—In some cases that would be necessary.

860. Mr. *Ewart.*] The mechanics' institutions are founded and maintained by subscription, are they not?—Yes, they are.

861. Therefore if the public had unlimited admission to an institution so founded, it would be a kind of invasion of the privileges of the members, unless, as the Right Honourable Chairman has suggested, there was a special room, which might be devoted to more general purposes?—It seems to involve that.

862. A sort of collision between the original intention of the institution and the demands of the public?—Yes; that difficulty was expressed to me in the instance of the Portico Library at Manchester.

863. *Chairman.*] Have any particular volumes of Parliamentary Papers been presented in any instances to those institutions?—There have been many instances of the presentation of such Papers by individual Members.

864. There has been no regular series?—No, nor any regular system of presenting them.

865. Do you think that it would add very much to the value of those Papers, as component parts of the library, if care was taken in the selection, and also if the supply was regularly kept up?—That is decidedly my opinion as to the selection of Papers on important subjects, and the same opinion was expressed to me yesterday by the Secretary of the Manchester Mechanics' Institution. He states that they are very desirous to receive a selection of important Papers, which would greatly contribute to the use and good service of the institution.

866. Do you think that that selection should be made here, or by the members of the mechanics' institution themselves?—I believe the best principle would be found to lie in the selection, in the first instance, by the institutions themselves, of such Papers and documents as they deemed important, and the grant of them next by some responsible authority connected with Parliament, upon a review of all the circumstances which were put forward in favour of the application.

867. Is

867. Is it your opinion then, that by reading the heads of the different documents which are printed by the House of Commons, the members themselves, from those heads, would be able to judge whether they would be of value to them or not?—I think that if any general system of distribution were adopted by the House of Commons, that it ought to involve the circulation, by the authority of Parliament itself, of a list of Parliamentary Papers, and other publications of public Boards, and that it should not be left to the chance of the committees of those institutions knowing what Papers were issued, by seeing them in periodicals, but that they ought to be officially informed of everything that came out of the kind contemplated in the distribution.

868. Do you not think that in making a selection it would be well to be guided by what Reports would be especially interesting in particular localities?—Of course that would be one very important element in the distribution, that regard should be had to the special character of the locality; in the North of England, for instance, Reports and Papers on all subjects connected with manufactures and mines are of very great local interest; in every part of the country such Papers as relate to particular districts are important to them.

869. Would you send exactly the same class of Papers to Leeds or to Sheffield that you would to Liverpool?—I would not. I would send to Liverpool, in addition to Papers relating to commerce in general, all such Papers as related to shipping; and in the case of Leeds, obviously every Paper connected with the local manufactures of the district would be of special importance in that district.

870. Are you aware that the Society of Arts publish in their Journal every year a list of the Papers printed by the House of Commons?—I have seen that list.

871. Are you of opinon that from that list the members of the institutes themselves would be able to select such papers as were peculiarly interesting to them?—I am strongly of opinion that if Parliament adopted any system of distribution of Papers, it ought to be independent of any private society whatever, and that it should be by some authority directly responsible to Parliament, and regularly reporting its operations.

872. The Journal of the Society of Arts is distributed to all the institutions in union with the society, is it not?—Yes; no copy of it was ever sent to the Free Library of Manchester, but that of course has no connexion with the Society of Arts.

873. Mr. *Ewart.*] Would not a small Committee of the House of Commons seem to be the most obvious instrument for diffusing such Papers?—I think it would be.

874. *Chairman.*] In those institutions, is the library a great point of attraction?—I think that in most flourishing institutions, especially in the North of England, the library is a very important point of attraction. It is the case in an eminent degree at Manchester. The yearly circulation of books from the library of the mechanics' institution is very considerable; it exceeds 50,000 annually.

875. Are you of opinion, supposing it be determined to distribute these Papers, that it would be advisable to distribute them to more than one institution in one locality?—I think that in all cases, except those of very large towns, the distribution to one institution would be ample.

876. Mr. *Hutt.*] On what principle would you select the institutions?—I would chiefly select it on the ground of the population of the town.

877. In the case of there being more than one mechanics' institution in one town, by what principle would you be guided in the selection of the particular institution?—I would take that which had the largest number of members, and presented the best assurance of permanency. I believe that in the case of most towns the presentation to one institution of that nature would be ample. I think that the free libraries, established under the Libraries' Act, have quite a different relation to this subject.

878. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that the reports of the Board of Health, of the Committee of Privy Council on Education, and of the Department of Practical Art, have been already distributed to a considerable number of mechanics' institutions and literary institutions?—Yes, and I believe that they have been of great public service.

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879. Have you had the means of ascertaining whether those works which have been distributed have attracted attention, and have been read in those institutions?—I am not able to speak very distinctly to that fact of my own knowlege; I know that in our own free library at Manchester the Reports of the Board of Health have been read; I do not know anything about those Reports in connexion with the mechanics' institution.

880. Do you think that any condition should be laid down, that in the event of the breaking up of any institution to which such Papers had been presented, they should not be sold, but revert to the public?—I think that such a condition ought to be indispensable.

881. Mr. *Hutt.*] Why do you think so?—Because I take it that the primary object of the distribution would be to enable the largest number of persons in any town to have access to the important information contained in the Parliamentary and public documents, and that object would not be secured unless some condition were enforced that there should be no misappropriation, no selling of such documents, but that they should be perpetually maintained for public use.

882. Would you consider it to be necessary that the institutes receiving those Papers should make a periodical return of the number of their members, and the condition in which they were?—I think some condition similar to that which the Commissioners of Public Records have imposed, namely, that if the institution to which the grant has been made ceases to exist, it shall return what has been granted, would be advantageous.

883. *Chairman.*] Can you state what the conditions are which you have alluded to?—No, I have not the precise words; but I know the fact, that the Commissioners of Public Records have laid it down as an express condition that if the institutions be broken up, the works that had been granted should be returned. In many cases you may observe upon the covers of such books the labels: "To be perpetually preserved in the," leaving a blank for the name of the institution; I have seen that often.

884. With regard to the mechanics' institutions in agricultural districts, there may be instances of there being very few members in a thin population, and, therefore, where it might be difficult to bring them within any conditions, as to having a sufficient number to entitle them to these Papers, would it not be necessary to lay down some rule under which those peculiar circumstances should be considered?—I think the first rule is, that in every town where a free library or other library is generally accessible, and the permanency of it is already secured, that library should be the first depository of all such documents and records, and that the claim of no mechanics' or other institutions, under any circumstances, should be considered, until the claims of the public upon the permanent institutions were first met.

885. Mr. *Ewart.*] You stated, did you not, that two things were indispensable in the selection of institutions to receive Parliamentary Papers, namely, the permanency of the institution and its accessibility to the public?—I think, if any, those are essential conditions of the distribution.

886. Are not both those requisites combined in the case of public free libraries, almost more than in any other institution?—They are almost the only class of institutions in which both those conditions are combined.

887. *Chairman.*] Supposing the case of small institutions in agricultural towns not coming up to the number of members required, in what way would you distribute the Papers?—I think that the Papers locally interesting in such districts ought to be given to the best institution which presents itself; but it would be an excellent condition to lay down in connexion with that distribution, that if any more permanent and more really public institution should hereafter come to exist in that locality, a transfer should be made of the Papers so granted to the first permanent institution in the same district.

888. Have you any knowledge of the itinerating libraries which have been established in Cumberland?—I have a general knowledge of the working of them, but not so much in Cumberland as in Scotland and in large towns.

889. Are you of opinion, wherever there is a small number of institutions which yet deserve a certain degree of encouragement, that something of the same regulation might be adopted?—I think it is very feasible to do that, and that it would be very useful.

890. Are you of opinion that it would be desirable to send a certain number of Papers that might circulate among such institutions?—I think that that would

would be very useful, even in the most thinly populated district. In the most purely agricultural districts, Papers on such subjects as emigration would now be of great value and be much prized by persons who have no sort of access to them at present.

891. Mr. *Stirling.*] Do you think it would be important that the Papers, if distributed, should be distributed near about the time of their publication, or might the distribution be left to the end of the year?—I think the most useful course would be to distribute the larger and more important documents immediately on their appearance, but such of the smaller Papers as it was thought desirable to circulate might be furnished best at the end of the year, because at a library they are most valuable when put in sequence.

892. You are aware, of course, that it is towards the end of the year the larger number of Reports are generally published?—Yes; so that on the whole a distribution at the end of each Session would probably be at once the most effective and most economical mode of distribution.

893. Mr. *Ewart.*] Is there any library in Manchester which is in the regular receipt of Parliamentary Papers?—I only know one library which has anything like a regular collection of such Papers at present.

894. Which library is that?—That is the library of the corporation of Manchester.

895. As you are very familiar with the subject of libraries generally, can you inform the Committee whether there are not a great number of village libraries founded in many parts of the country now?—Many, and I believe their number to be increasing.

896. Do not you think, on general grounds, that it might be really desirable to send some papers to them, connected especially with the subject of emigration?—I think it would be extremely useful.

897. Supposing, for instance, a committee of five appointed, possibly, Members of the House of Commons, who should select the Papers, and send them into the agricultural districts, probably to the village libraries, Papers, say, connected with emigration?—I think that would be found productive of great public utility.

898. There are very few itinerating libraries, I believe, existing in the country villages?—Very few.

899. Those in Scotland have been abandoned, have they not?—I believe not entirely; many of them have been abandoned.

900. So that you could not very well make use of them as instruments for circulating very useful knowledge on emigration in that part of the country?—I am afraid only to a very small extent.

901. Mr. *Headlam.*] Is there in Manchester any tolerably large collection of Parliamentary Papers?—The largest collection at present existing is that in the library of the corporation.

902. To what extent is that library accessible to the public?—It is accessible to every respectable inhabitant of the town.

903. Have you experienced any practical difficulties in the purchase of Parliamentary Papers?—The only difficulty I have personally experienced is that of getting the money to pay for them; but in the case of the corporation it has been considered so important to have a collection of the Parliamentary Papers, that they do regularly obtain them every Session by purchase. Of course I need scarcely add, that such Papers would be far more widely useful to the public in the free library than at the town-hall. Though no absolute restriction is imposed, it would not practically be feasible to admit any large number of persons there.

904. Are persons allowed to take the books away from the town-hall?—No, except in some very special case; if a well-known person were desirous to borrow a particular document, permission would be very cheerfully accorded by the mayor.

905. Do any of the booksellers in Manchester sell Parliamentary Papers?—Not habitually.

906. Do you think that if they had any inducement, by obtaining a profit upon them, to sell them, that would have the effect of diffusing the Parliamentary Papers more largely?—Yes, to some small extent, I think it would encourage their circulation, especially in connexion with questions pending at any given moment and exciting public interest. I know that a fortnight ago, if the Report

of the Commissioners of Revenue Inquiry on the soap duties could have been readily purchased in Manchester, several persons would have bought it, who desired to obtain access to it for a temporary purpose.

907. If it had been exposed for sale in the windows of the booksellers in Manchester, in all probability a considerable number would have been sold?—Yes.

908. At a slightly increased price, probably?—I believe not a considerable number, but a small number; at all events, persons would be able to get access to them.

909. It requires some effort now, does it not, for a private individual to obtain one of those Parliamentary Papers, supposing he is willing to pay a small price for it?—It is difficult to obtain them except through a London bookseller like Newman, who deals habitually in such documents, or by direct application to Hansard.

910. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Is it not frequently the case that Parliamentary Papers that were issued 10 or 20 years ago are very much wanted, and is it not desirable that they should be deposited in a library like the Free Library of Manchester, so that persons might know where to find those papers?—It is of very great importance; at present it is scarcely possible to obtain some Papers that are very interesting in Manchester, even by purchase; in the case of the Free Library, we attempted to purchase certain documents connected with the cotton manufacture, and we gave a commission to the bookseller for them, but could not obtain them.

911. Mr. *Ewart.*] You would desire to have a collection of Parliamentary Papers, not only with reference to the present and the future, but with respect to the past?—It would be most important, as respects the desirability to the Free Library at Manchester, to obtain a regular supply of Parliamentary Documents for the future; and that is much enhanced by the fact, that within the last few days an individual Member of the late Parliament, Mr. Alexander Henry, has given us the Papers of five Sessions, and by that donation the library is accidentally furnished with very many Papers which have been repeatedly asked for by readers, and have not been in the library.

912. For instance, a person studying the bullion question, or anything connected with the cotton manufacture, would wish to have all the Papers, retrospective as well as present and prospective?—In Manchester it would be a very great benefit to have access to a complete series of Papers on such subjects; in the case of the Free Library it is the more important, because we have taken pains to form a collection of tracts on the history of commerce, political economy and legislation, and we have more than 10,000 of such at present in our possession, and this collection would be in a very important degree supplemented by the additional information contained in Blue Books.

913. Is it not most likely that future questions connected with local history, commerce and commercial law, and many fiscal questions, will arise in many of those large towns, and that such subjects will be pursued with greater zeal in those large towns in future times than even in the metropolis itself?—It is from the experience of the demand for that kind of reading already, that in Manchester we have spent some money in the formation of such a collection as that which has been mentioned.

914. *Chairman.*] Inasmuch as, generally, those subjects which become matter of legislation undergo strict inquiry before Select Committees of this House, do not you think that it would be very desirable to make the country acquainted with those subjects, and that the Reports of such Select Committees should be furnished?—It would be very important, and of real service to the public; a regular series of such documents would not be serviceable merely to the extent of the number of persons who may actually use them, for, in a very great number of cases, the persons applying for such documents in the libraries are those who have a public purpose, who are reading or writing upon the question, and who in that way become the channel through which the information contained in those documents is distributed to a very much larger class of persons than those who ever see the documents themselves.

915. Do you think that the public are generally aware of the investigations that do go on in the Committee-rooms in the House of Commons?—I believe there is very extensive ignorance upon that subject, and that the frequenters of libraries in the country, in search of information upon particular subjects, either for their own information or to subserve a special public purpose of the moment,

are often entirely ignorant how much information there is contained in the Parliamentary and public documents; and the difficulty of obtaining that information has been greatly enhanced by the bad system of cataloguing them, which I have alluded to in the early part of my examination. Habitually, in the great multitude of catalogues I have perused myself, the information upon certain questions which the Parliamentary and public documents give, is quite disconnected from the information in other books; for example, the Report to Parliament upon the application of iron to railway structures, interests a large number of readers in Manchester; there are several libraries that would have some information upon it; but suppose there was a book treating upon the subject systematically, and another book issued by Parliament, treating the subject in relation to very important experiments which had been recently instituted, and which might even be more useful than the systematic treatise, there would be a difficulty in knowing that the library possessed both books, as the two would be under different classes in the catalogue, although they are substantially treatises upon the same question. I know that in many instances there has been a failure to find important information, from that circumstance; and that it has been looked upon as though Blue Books and Parliamentary Papers formed a class of literature of themselves, and one of very little use, whereas they contain very important contributions to almost all classes of literature occasionally.

916. You are aware that subjects now of general interest, such as transportation, and the subject of treating criminal and destitute children, have undergone searching inquiries before Committees of the House of Commons, and do not you consider that it would be very advisable that the members of those institutes should be aware what the investigations are that have taken place before any steps were taken?—I think it would be very important; I believe that such documents would be useful to a constantly increasing number of persons, if a systematic distribution were adopted.

917. Mr. *Ewart.*] Whether the mode adopted be by means of mechanics' institutions in the rural districts, or by village libraries, you think it is clearly most important that some mode should be adopted of circulating Papers respecting emigration for instance, throughout the rural districts?—I think it most important, but not more so than the circulation of information upon a great number of other questions in the rural districts, and some Papers occasionally treating upon agricultural subjects more directly, would also be very valuable.

918. *Chairman.*] Papers connected with our foreign relations, or the relations of the State to our Colonies would be useful perhaps in large towns, but would not be useful in agricultural districts?—Undoubtedly there are many important subjects connected with the present and recent state of foreign countries upon which the best information accessible in the English language is in the Blue Books.

919. You think that that information would be extremely interesting in large towns, but not so in other places?—That would be the case.

920. Mr. *Ewart.*] Do not you think it is very desirable that members of the press should have such sources of knowledge open to them upon political, commercial and other subjects?—That question involves precisely the strongest instance I have ever heard in Manchester, of the difficulty of obtaining access to important Papers of that kind; many persons connected with the press in Manchester have frequent occasion to refer to Parliamentary documents, and they have certainly had very great difficulty in obtaining them; recourse has been occasionally had to the library of the corporation, but hitherto that library has not been so useful to the public as the corporation will soon make it, on account of the want of a catalogue of its contents; that catalogue the council contemplate to get formed.

921. *Chairman.*] You think that the Papers which it is proposed to distribute, would be as interesting and useful as an account of the debates in Parliament?—Certainly; I believe that if it were possible to cheapen to public libraries the cost of "Hansard," a great service would be rendered. I do not say that "Hansard" ought to be given; for, certainly, the Blue Books would be still more important than the debates, but it might be worth the consideration of Parliament.

922. Mr. *Ewart.*] Is it not probable that the political knowledge of the public would be further extended, if, in the interval between the Sessions, such access was given to the members of the press to those Parliamentary Papers, that they could

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could abridge them, and lay them, if they chose, before their provincial reader in different parts of the country?—I am certain that many editors would take pains to circulate the information contained in such documents, if they had free access to them.

923. That would give the public at once a practical and valuable species of information?—Yes; I also think that it would be a very important thing if this Committee would take into consideration the practicability of forming a digest of the less important Papers, especially those which are scattered in a great variety of documents relating to similar subjects, but not in the Papers themselves made consecutive.

924. *Chairman.*] Do you mean something similar to that published as an Appendix to the British Almanack?—That, upon a larger scale, would be very useful. If all the Reports made to the House, independently of the bulky Minutes of Evidence and Appendices were brought together, those Reports containing as they do often, a special digest of the evidence given, it would make the information more accessible than it is to any class of persons at present, except a very small class.

925. Are you able to state to the Committee the circulation and the condition of any other free library in the manufacturing district, besides that of Manchester?—I have been furnished with a good deal of information about the condition of the free libraries either existing or in process of formation, in several towns in Lancashire, and amongst others Liverpool, Salford, and Bolton.

926. Mr. *Ewart.*] Those are in existence now, are they not?—All but that of Bolton; that library is not yet opened, but is in rapid progress at present.

927. There is a library at Warrington, is there not?—Yes; but I have no special information beyond the fact that the library there works satisfactorily, and is found a great public advantage, but the means for its maintenance are extremely limited; they are made up, partly of the proceeds of the halfpenny rate, and partly of annual subscriptions, in return for which the subscribers, and they only, are entitled to take books out of the library; as well as to admission at times when the library is closed to the public.

928. *Chairman.*] Will you first give the Committee a statement as to those libraries that already exist, and then state to the Committee what others may be, so far as you know, in process of formation?—The library at Salford, in Peel Park, was opened to the public in 1850. It is maintained by the Town Council out of the Museum-rate, which amounts yearly to 393 *l.* It contains at present 10,794 volumes; those are exclusively for use within the building itself. There is at Salford no lending library; that at Manchester is the only lending library yet opened to the public under the Libraries Act.

929. Mr. *Ewart.*] That was considered rather as an experiment by some persons?—Yes; and I believe most persons who have any knowledge of its working think now the experiment has had a very satisfactory result. The Salford library is composed of 921 volumes on theology and ecclesiastical history, 957 on legislation, politics and commerce, 3,556 volumes on history, biography, and voyages and travels, 1,697 volumes on the sciences and the arts, and 3,663 volumes on general literature; in all, 10,794 volumes; there is also a very valuable museum.

930. Have you a museum attached to the library at Manchester?—No; nor is it now contemplated to form it.

931. Do you think that the Salford one will suffice?—Not for the wants of Manchester; but it was found that the utmost that there could be any hope of doing in Manchester, in connexion with the free library, was a trade museum chiefly to contain models of machinery; that was contemplated, and was part of the ground of the appeal made to the public for subscriptions, but it has been found, in practice, that the library will, by itself, when the council obtain larger powers, increase so rapidly that the building will not more than suffice for its augmentation, and there will be no facilities for forming such a museum, though the opinion is strongly entertained in Manchester that a museum of models and machinery would be a very great benefit.

932. This library was founded in a part of Manchester frequented very much by the poorer classes, was it not?—It is so; but it is within ten minutes walk of the Town-hall.

933. What has the effect of it been upon the surrounding population?—Of a very gratifying nature, so far as any evidence has come within my observation.

934. *Chairman.*]

934. *Chairman.*] You have stated the number of books in the Salford library; can you state the number of frequenters to read in that library?—The total number of visitors to the museum and library generally has been, in a single year, 276,535. I can also state precisely the number of volumes issued in each of the three years during which the Salford library has been opened. In 1850 it was 26,718; in 1851, 32,978; and in 1852, 33,461, making a total of 93,157; so that it is gradually, although slowly, increasing even upon the very large number issued in the first year. I have a further statement of the classes of works issued, taking the month of May in each of those three years; it appears that in 1850, in theology 60 volumes were issued; in law, politics and commerce, 27 volumes; in history, voyages and travels, and biography, 432; in sciences and arts, 300; in general literature, 250 volumes; and in works of fiction, 1,931 volumes were issued: in 1851, 87 were issued in theology; 53 in law, politics and commerce; 680 in history, voyages, travels and biography; 234 in the sciences and arts; 363 in general literature, poetry, the drama, and journals and magazines; and 1,684 in fiction: in 1852 there were issued 107 in theology, 51 in law, politics and commerce, 616 in history, voyages, travels and biography, 256 in the sciences and arts, 784 in general literature, and 1,144 in works of fiction, showing a gradual increase in the graver literature, and a decrease in the lighter literature, as respects that library.

935. Can you state to the Committee what class of readers it is who attend very much to the lighter literature?—Not as regards Salford, I can as regards Manchester; the lending library in Manchester is mainly used by the class of artisans and operatives; but also by clerks and shopkeepers of various kinds; the average number of persons that habitually take out books may be stated at about 2,000, and I believe that of that 2,000, 1,750 would be males and 250 females; whilst of the former, about 400 are warehousemen and teachers, &c.; about 350 artisans and mechanics, 200 mill-hands, 100 clerks, about the same number assistants in shops, about 60 shopkeepers, and about 350 are boys of all ages, and very variously employed. About 100 more are persons in superior positions to most of those already indicated; and of the remaining 90 nothing can be said. Of the females I estimate that about 110 are assistants in warehouses and shops, dressmakers, and the like; about 100 mill-hands, and 20 are pupil-teachers.

936. Mr. *Ewart.*] Do you find that the working classes take out specially any particular class of books?—The working classes, speaking of the lending library, take out books in all departments of literature, but hitherto chiefly in the lighter literature; but the proportion of lighter literature, as compared with the proportion of volumes in the other departments, is not increasing but decreasing; the experience of the last month as against the first, is an increase in the demand for the most important works in history, and a diminution in the demand for the ordinary kind of fiction.

937. Mr. *Hutt.*] Is the alteration a very remarkable one?—Not very remarkable, it is very gradual.

938. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Might not that be accounted for by the circumstance that novels, being once read, are probably not read again?—Not altogether, because the body of readers is shifting.

939. Mr. *Ewart.*] The working classes take those books home and read them in their own families, do they not?—Yes, they do; as to the reference library, the experience is of an important character; there the attendance of persons in a superior position of life increases, and that involves an increase to some extent in the demand for works of an intrinsically valuable kind; but it has not been found that in that library the demand for ordinary fiction, of which, however, there is but a very small supply, decreases; it rather increases as respects the class of artisans and operatives referred to in the answer to the preceding question.

940. *Chairman.*] It has been stated to this Committee, that the lower down you go in the class of readers the higher stands the proportion of good reading as against the lighter reading; would your experience confirm that?—No; speaking of the working classes generally, it would not; though speaking of certain sections of that class, that observation would quite accord with my experience; if the question were limited to the class of artisans, mechanics, machinists, and persons of that description, of whom there is a large number in Manchester, they do, in the free library, habitually ask for scientific works; we have many instances of men coming to study laboriously, night after night, and week after

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week, books bearing upon their own practical department of trade; for instance, a dyer will come to study works on dying and chemical works, studying them with a persistent purpose; but no such experience would obtain of the entire class of persons that belong, in general parlance, to the operative classes; many of them habitually confine themselves to mere light literature.

941. Mr. *Ewart.*] Will you inform the Committee whether, on the whole, you do not think that the taste of the great mass of readers, including principally the working classes, is in favour of those works, be they of what class of literarature whatsoever, which are the best works, or does the general current run eventually in favour of a bad style or a good style of books?—The character of the demand mainly depends, I believe, upon the educational acquirement and capability of the readers; we have a large class who did, at the outset of the library, ask for books of a comparatively high character, and they found a difficulty in reading them, and in mastering them; I have sometimes noticed myself that persons have asked for good books, and have brought them back and said, "I cannot read this, have you any books easy to read"? and of course, as respects those persons, the experience of the library has been that the demand for good books has been decreasing; in relation to the demand for the best books by the class of readers who from the lending library take out scientific works, especially such as have a bearing upon their own particular callings, they also come to the reference library and read similar books there; but that class is but a section of the entire working class.

942. Without drawing any distinction between scientific and lighter works, is not the demand for good books, whatever they may be, generally?—I believe, speaking generally, that the experience of the lending library is, that the demand for books is improved in character. In the reference library that is also the case, though to a smaller extent; but it is chiefly owing to the superior position or the particular circumstances of the parties who come to read; those who begin in that library with mere light literature, habitually ask for works of the humblest kind in that department of literature possessed by the library; and of the class of prose fiction it only possesses 200 volumes out of its 16,000. In the formation of that library, we intended to make it a really valuable and permanent collection, and the works of prose fiction were for the most part sent down to the lending library, so that persons have no wide choice to make in respect of lighter literature.

943. *Chairman.*] Do you find that they ascend generally to works of a higher stamp?—In the lending library we have found that; in the reference library, those who begin with the humblest kind of literature, speaking especially of young men and boys, have very often kept to it.

944. Mr. *Ewart.*] In the case of works of fiction, do you find that the better works of that class are finally preferred to others, or does the current of popular favour seem to run through a low class of works of fiction?—The contents of that department in the library of reference, where we see the people read, are so limited, that it hardly affords ground for comparison. In the lending library there is a decided improvement. The most popular writer, I may perhaps state, of fictitious works has always been De Foe; his books have been more constantly asked for than the books of any other writer in that department of literature whatever, and his more popular books are never out of demand; young men and boys will come in and wait till one reader has done with the book, and then eagerly rush up to the table, and ask the assistant for that book, immediately it comes back.

945. *Chairman.*] Can you state what particular works of De Foe are in request?—"Moll Flanders" is a very popular work with this class of readers; it is a small section of the whole number, but it is one that has always frequented the library to some extent. "The Memoirs of a Cavalier" is also a very popular book, and "Robinson Crusoe," "Colonel Jack," and the "Memoirs of a Private Gentleman." De Foe was a marvellous writer of title-pages; there is something very attractive and piquant in the titles of his books, and I think that that is one cause of their popularity with young men and boys. "Roxana, or the Fortunate Mistress," has been worn almost threadbare.

946. Mr. *Walter.*] Are Sir Walter Scott's works in the reference or in the lending library?—In both, and they are a good deal read; but Scott has never been quite so popular as De Foe. Some of Scott's works are very much in request, such as "Ivanhoe;" that is hardly ever out of hand.

947. Mr.

947. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do you find much demand for the novels of the last century, those, for instance, of Smollett and Fielding?—There is an occasional demand; there is a collection, known as Ballantyne's Novelists' Library, consisting of 10 volumes, and that has been very much used; but we have so small a supply in that department that we have scarcely tested the fact as to what the demand would be if we encouraged it.

948. *Chairman.*] Will you give the Committee an account of the Liverpool Free Library?—The Liverpool Free Library was opened to the public in October last; it is under the management of the corporation, in pursuance of the provisions of the Act of the 15th of the Queen, passed in May last year.

949. Mr. *Ewart.*] That is a local Act?—Yes; it empowers the corporation of Liverpool to establish "a Public Library, Museum and Gallery of Arts, and to make provision for the reception of a collection of specimens illustrative of natural history, presented by the Earl of Derby, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Borough of Liverpool and the neighbourhood thereof, and others resorting thereto." The Act enables the town council to levy a rate of a penny in the pound, and states, "It shall be lawful for the council once in every year, or oftener if they shall think necessary, to make one or more rate or rates, to be called, 'The Library and Museum Rate,' for the purpose of defraying all or any of the expenses incidental to or necessary for the due carrying into effect the objects and purposes of this Act."

950. *Chairman.*] Does that Act give them the power of purchasing books?—Yes, it does. "The council shall establish and maintain a public Library and Museum, with a Gallery of Arts, and may receive gifts and make purchases of books, maps, plans, pictures, drawings, engravings, sculptures, specimens of art or science, or other articles which they may deem suitable and proper to be deposited therein, and shall provide and appropriate a proper and sufficient site and buildings for such public Library, Museum and Gallery of Arts, and may from time to time extend or change such site, and, if necessary for any of the purposes aforesaid, may purchase or lease lands or buildings, and from time to time erect, change, alter and extend buildings, and shall maintain and keep such buildings in good repair." They have the power to purchase books, and I was informed by a member of the town council of Liverpool, that he believed 4,000*l.* a year would be applicable to the library, the museum, and gardens. I am not in possession of distinct information as to the actual operation of the rate, but I was so informed; and certainly the rental assessment of Liverpool is increasing.

951. Mr. *Ewart.*] Is there a clause in that Act which makes it entirely open to all the public, similar to the clause in the General Act, which states that the admission shall be free of all charge to everybody?—It is enacted, that the admission to the public library, museum and gallery of arts, to be established under the provisions of this Act, shall be free of charge. The library contains about 12,000 volumes; it was opened with 10,000, of which about 3,000 volumes were donations; but of those I was told, that on examination only 3,000 or thereabouts were fit for real service in the library, or worthy of being catalogued. The others have been obtained by purchase. This collection at Liverpool contains a much larger proportion of lighter literature than ours does, and it is exclusively used at present as a library, to be read within the building. In the preface to the catalogue of the library which I have here, the committee for managing it state, that it is their design, at the earliest practicable period, to recommend to the council the establishment of one or more lending libraries, to follow up the impressions and tastes which they trust will be created and improved by this institution. It has not been found practicable to accomplish this hitherto, yet it is hoped that this desirable object will not be overlooked by their successors.

952. *Chairman.*] Can you inform the Committee what is the character of the books issued to the readers in the reading library?—The total number of the books which have been issued to readers since the opening of the library, up to the 31st of January, is 40,934 volumes. Of those 1,423 were on theology and moral philosophy; 3,199 were on the sciences and arts; 9,659 were on history, comprising history proper, biography, topography, voyages and travels; 448 were in the class, law, politics and commerce, and 26,205 in the class of general literature and collective works. The average of books per day has been 499 volumes; the average daily issue of works on general literature has been 275 volumes. In the case of the Manchester Free Library, it has been only 100

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volumes as the average daily issue of works in this class. In law, politics and commerce, at Liverpool, the issue has been five volumes; at Manchester 10; in history, at Liverpool, 117 volumes; at Manchester 98; in the sciences and arts, 38 at Liverpool and 33 at Manchester. The average daily issue in theology and moral philosophy is, at Liverpool 17, at Manchester 10; and I may add, on the authority of my friend Mr. Picton, the chairman of the committee of the town council, that the general working of the library, and the use made of it by the public, have proved to be most satisfactory and encouraging; I have seen many of the members of the town council of Liverpool, and I know that there is the warmest desire to make the library useful to the public to the greatest possible extent, and a very liberal spirit towards its large augmentation.

953. Are the hours of admission the same as at Manchester?—It is open two hours longer than at Manchester; it is open from nine o'clock in the morning till 10 o'clock at night. I will put in the Rules and Regulations for the admission of the public to the Liverpool Free Library. I may state, that at the request of the committee of the town council there, I furnished copies of our rules and regulations, and for the most part these are framed from them.

[*The same were handed in:*]

LIVERPOOL FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Rules and Regulations.

1. The library shall be open to the public, gratuitously, every day—Sundays, Christmas-day and Good Friday excepted—from the hour of ten in the morning to ten in the evening.

2. No person shall be admitted who is intoxicated, or in an uncleanly condition; nor shall any smoking or audible conversation be permitted; nor shall any person be allowed to partake of refreshments therein; and any person who shall offend against these regulations, or shall be guilty of any other misconduct, shall not be allowed to remain within the building.

3. No person shall be allowed to pass within the enclosure, or to take any book from the shelves, except by permission of the librarian, to whom is committed the general charge of the library, and who is responsible for the safe keeping of the books and other property. No book or other article shall be taken out of the library.

4. Catalogues will be kept in the library for the use of the readers; and the librarian shall enter in a book to be provided for that purpose the title and number of every book delivered for perusal, and each reader shall sign a receipt for every book so delivered; and shall, before leaving the room, return such book or books into the hands of the librarian or his assistant.

5. The librarian or his assistant shall carefully examine each book returned, and if the same be found to have sustained any damage or injury, or to have been rendered of less value by being soiled or written in, he shall require the person to whom the same was delivered to pay the amount of damage or injury done, or otherwise to procure a new copy of equal value; and in the latter case, such person shall be entitled to the damaged copy on depositing the new one.

6. If any person to whom a book shall have been delivered, shall not re-deliver the same to the librarian or his assistant before leaving the room, or shall refuse or neglect to pay on demand the amount of any loss, damage or injury, or to procure another copy as before-mentioned, then the amount of such loss, damage or injury, or the value of such book, shall be recoverable from the person or persons aforesaid, as a debt, in any action or proceeding applicable to the recovery of debts of like amount.

7. The two last preceding rules shall likewise be enforced, so far as the same are applicable, in cases where any damage or injury shall have been done to any other property in the library or museum.

8. The librarian shall have power to refuse books to any reader who shall neglect or refuse to comply with the rules and regulations of the library; but any person so refused shall have liberty to appeal to the library committee.

9. The use of the library shall be limited to persons above the age of 14 years, except at the discretion of the librarian.

954. Mr. *Walter.*] Can you state what has been the annual expense of maintaining the libraries at Manchester and Liverpool, independently of the purchase of books?—At Manchester, the expenses of the actual six months which have elapsed since its opening, amount to 550 *l.*, or thereabouts; that sum includes all the expenditure of the town council in Manchester; of that, 311 *l.* has been devoted to salaries and wages, 91 *l.* to furniture and fittings, 41 *l.* to printing, register books, and stationery; 42 *l.* to gas rent, 21 *l.* to fire insurance, 15 *l.* to police, 15 *l.* to law expenses, and the remaining 13 *l.* to parcels, postage, water rent,

rent, and other small expenses. At the last meeting of the town council of Liverpool, payments, amounting to 3,407 *l.*, were ordered for the purposes of the Library and Museum Act; but of the details of this expenditure I have no account.

955. Mr. *Michell.*] Why did you require police there?—On account of the very large resort to the library in the first weeks of its opening, it was thought desirable, upon consultation with me, that the town council should direct police to be stationed at the doors; after a few weeks they were withdrawn.

956. *Chairman.*] You stated that the Manchester Library was opened by a private subscription of between 12,000 *l.* and 13,000 *l*; the one at Liverpool had no such advantage, had it?—At Liverpool a considerable sum was raised; an association was formed there for the purpose of raising funds to purchase books; of this association, T. B. Horsfall, Esq., was the president, John Aikin, Esq., the treasurer, and Dr. Abraham Hume the honorary secretary; and they raised for that purpose the net sum of 1,389 *l.* 2 *s.* 10 *d.*

957. Are you aware that there are in other towns free libraries now in process of formation under Mr. Ewart's Act?—Steps have been taken in several towns towards such an object; but the full extent of what has been done, I am only acquainted with in the instance of Bolton; at Bolton, during the present week, I had the pleasure of visiting their library, which is rapidly progressing under the zealous efforts of Mr. French and Mr. Holden, both of whom are the honorary and the hardworking secretaries to the committee. They have brought together nearly 6,000 volumes; for the purchase of books they have raised a sum amounting to 3,000 *l.*; and I am assured that they have the confident hope of ultimately realizing for the purchase of books in Bolton as much as we devoted to that purpose in Manchester, namely, 4,000 *l.*; I believe the books have been very well selected, as far as respects those that have been obtained by purchase; and a very suitable building has been provided for their reception. It is contemplated to open the library in both departments, namely, for reading within the walls and for lending without the walls, at the same time; so that Bolton will afford the second instance of the combination of those two departments in a library established under Mr. Ewart's Act. It will also, like Warrington, combine the principle of support by permanent rate, with partial support by annual subscriptions, the subscribers having the first perusal of new works.

958. Are you aware whether it is contemplated in any other towns to establish free libraries?—Zealous attempts were made both at Sheffield and Birmingham to bring the Public Library Act into adoption by the burgesses; but in both of those towns the purpose was of necessity, although only for a time, abandoned; in the case of Birmingham, by the positively unfavourable result of the poll, taken under peculiar circumstances, and without that proper degree of publicity, and that effort to make the object thoroughly well known to the burgesses which ought to have been provided for; at Sheffield, the attempt to form a library at present was relinquished after a show of hands, and no poll was taken, as I am informed; I have heard of several other towns, in which the thing is in contemplation, and where more or less public notice has been taken of the question; for instance, at Hull, Kidderminster, at Nottingham, and some other places; at Oxford, a poll has been taken, and by a very large majority the Act has been adopted, and a valuable library is in course of formation there; I believe that Oxford was next to Manchester as respects the polling of the burgesses under that Act.

959. Mr. *Walter.*] In the case of Sheffield and Birmingham, are there mechanics' institutions in those two towns?—In both large and important institutions exist; in the case of Sheffield, there is not only a mechanics' institution, but a large library, known as "The Apprentices' Library," and those who are interested in that institution were rather unfavourable to the attempt to create a new free library; that was one reason why an adverse influence was created in that town; I have heard, upon good authority, very lately, that the number of persons friendly to the free library under the Act in Sheffield is increasing, and that a new attempt to take the sense of the burgesses on the question would already have been made, if the peculiar construction of the Act had permitted it.

960. Mr. *Ewart.*] Are you aware that the town council at Bristol are contemplating the formation of a free library there?—As to Bristol, I have had the gratification of receiving several communications from the town clerk, asking

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for information upon what we have done in Manchester, and for suggestions likely to facilitate the object which they were endeavouring to attain, and I have heard that the prospect there of a very good library, to be similarly maintained and supported, is satisfactory.

961. *Chairman.*] Are you of opinion that there is any probability within 10 or 12 years, so far as you can see, of the provisions of that Act being taken advantage of for the establishment of free libraries in a considerable number of large towns?—I can say, both from personal intercourse with residents in many towns, and from correspondence connected with this question, that there is a very general disposition to take advantage of the Act; but I am very strongly of opinion that that disposition would greatly increase and strengthen if the Act itself were amended, and made more thoroughly efficient for its purposes; its operation has been good, so far as it has gone, but it does not go far enough; especially in this important particular, that no means are afforded of keeping up a library that is once established.

962. Mr. *Ewart.*] In the purchasing of books you mean?—Yes, that is the great difficulty under the Act; and I ought to state, that I am perfectly aware in saying this, that the fault, if fault it may be called, of this deficient construction of the Act, is not due to its mover; it was the result of a very pertinacious opposition, and of the very numerous difficulties that were intruded upon the passing of the Bill through the House of Commons.

963. *Chairman.*] Are you of opinion that the Act will ever be put in force in small towns, say of 5,000 or 10,000 inhabitants?—I believe not; and I think that that results from another deficiency in the Act, which consists in its uniform limitation of the rate, without regard to the peculiar circumstances of the towns; it seems to me, that arbitrarily to fix upon one halfpenny in the pound for places so diversely circumstanced as Manchester compared with Salford, or Liverpool compared with Bolton or with Warrington, is obviously prejudicial. In Manchester, as I have stated before, the rate yields 2,500*l.* now, and will yield much more presently; in Bolton, it will yield about 285*l.*; whilst in Warrington it yields but about 80 *l.* a year.

964. How does that bear upon the question of establishing free libraries in small towns?—Because I think that the rate would have to be pledged to too large an extent to do anything effectually; we find that in some towns where still the rate is absolutely limited to one halfpenny in the pound, it would produce a very small sum, and there the number of persons capable of anything like liberal subscriptions to start a library is also small, so that I infer that it would be desirable that in any amendment of the Act some regard should be had to that circumstance, so that a margin should be left to the discretion, and be exercised upon the responsibility of the town councils in all such places. Where a halfpenny rate is certain to be ineffectual for the purpose, I would vest a power in the town councils, upon their responsibility, to propose for the adoption of the burgesses a larger rate. I can see no reason, upon public grounds, why they should not have power to levy a penny rate instead of a halfpenny, when a penny would enable the object to be effected which, under a halfpenny rate, could not be effected, supposing the burgesses are first asked for their consent.

965. Unless there is power to increase the rate you do not think there is any likelihood of the Act being adopted in small towns?—I think not, because the experience of small places like Warrington is, that even where they have very favourable circumstances to begin with, in the actual existence of a library capable of being devoted to the public use, they have a difficulty in keeping it up in anything like efficiency.

966. Mr. *Michell.*] Supposing that in a small town there was an annual payment of a halfpenny or a penny in the pound, would not that meet the difficulty?—I think it would.

967. You do not think it would be possible to collect more than a penny in the pound?—I would not say that; I think there ought to be a margin o discretion left to municipalities themselves, and if they will self-tax themselves, I do not think that Parliament ought to restrain them. I know from information which I have received, that in many small towns there would be a better disposition towards the adoption of the Act, if, having regard to all the circumstances, they were able to use a wider discretion.

968. Mr. *Walter.*] Do you consider that there is any sufficient reason, on the score of expense, why a free library should not be established in any town only supporting

supporting a mechanics' institution?—I think not. I think that in small towns, where the mechanics' institutions are in very desperate circumstances, and they find the greatest difficulty to hold their heads above water, it would be a great public benefit if, by some larger provision in the Libraries Act, the purposes of the mechanics' institution were permanently and far more effectually secured by an institution of a similar nature, though necessarily of smaller extent, to those which exist in the large towns.

969. *Chairman.*] You mean combining the advantages of a mechanics' institution and a library?—Yes; of securing their permanent maintenance upon a poll of the burgesses by a rate, and taking them at once out of the struggling circumstances which have already ruined so many of the institutions.

970. Mr. *Ewart.*] In fact, to render them as perpetual as possible?—Yes; and I think that that ought to be the great object of legislation, in their regard.

971. Your supposition presupposes the existence of a corporation in those small towns, does it not?—Under the present construction of the Act, that would present a difficulty; there seems to be a necessity for some other machinery, and that also is a thing which seems to be insufficiently provided for.

972. You are aware, probably, that it was that very circumstance that prevented the adoption of the Act in London itself?—I know that that has been the case; and I have always, in considering the question, been impressed with the conviction that some different machinery for putting the Act into operation ought to be provided for—something, in such places as Marylebone, similar to their parochial vestry. I think that, in relation to the purpose of the Libraries Act, vestries are in as good and responsible a position as municipalities are, and that they ought to have similar powers.

973. Are you aware that there has been a meeting in Marylebone, and that the matter is under consideration now?—I was called upon, some months since, to furnish as much information as I could respecting the working of the Act in Manchester, and the character and operations of the library which we had established, and I had great pleasure in rendering them what little assistance I could in that direction. I know that the difficulties which this peculiarity of the present Act presents, are found to be very great impediments to the progress of the contemplated library in that district.

974. *Chairman.*] You are of opinion that, without an amended Act, it would be impossible to succeed to any great extent in the establishment of free libraries?—Yes; and in many instances where the attempt would be made, and to some extent carried out, the libraries would be still very much cramped, and their good results very much diminished, unless some general measure were introduced for an effectual amendment of the Act, because small towns, with their small resources, cannot do what Manchester and Liverpool can do, that is, go for special Acts; that involves an enormous expenditure, which presents very serious difficulties in the way of that general extension of libraries securely and permanently established, which is so desirable.

975. Mr. *Ewart.*] Those great towns have constant opportunities of coming to Parliament, and scarcely a year ever passes without some local Bill being introduced, in which they can insert whatever they please with respect to their local institutions?—Yes; and in this particular instance of Manchester, the increased powers which the council seek in respect to the public library do not involve any expenditure at all, because the expenditure for that local Act would have been just the same if that special object had not been provided for.

976. *Chairman.*] You are of opinion that where free libraries exist, they should have a preference in the distribution of Parliamentary Papers above any other institutions?—I hold that opinion very strongly indeed.

977. But until those libraries are founded, supposing it was considered expedient to distribute those papers, do you conceive that there is any machinery by which they might be better distributed than by means of the mechanics' institutions and the literary institutions?—I think not, but I still maintain the opinion that permanency and public accessibility ought to be the two indispensable conditions that should underlie that distribution.

978. Mr. *Michell.*] Do you mean that those institutions should have buildings of their own in possession; freehold buildings?—Yes, and the buildings secured with a reasonable probability of their continuing to exist, or in case of their discontinuance, provision should be made for a transfer to some other institution of all the Papers furnished to them at the public cost.

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979. Have you any knowledge of any small institutions of the kind?—I know some such; at Dukinfield, in Lancashire, there is a village library, which has had very good results, and although it has but a very small selection from such documents as are now in question, it would be useful to this library to have others furnished.

980. Do not you suppose that in those libraries which are now in such difficulties, if those Parliamentary works were presented to them, that would be a means of causing them to have a greater number of subscribers, and so they would get out of their difficulties?—In some cases it would, because the information would be made accessible to persons that cannot now see them.

981. It would be advisable, would it not, to have those Papers conveyed without charge?—I think that would be essential.

982. And that one or more days should be allowed to the public in the week, on which they should be allowed to have access to those Papers?—Yes.

983. Mr. *Walter*.] Assuming that public libraries are more desirable institutions than many others, and that there exists already a certain degree of jealousy between mechanics' institutions and the public libraries, are you of opinion that in the event of Parliamentary Papers being sent to mechanics' institutions, and such institutions being rendered thereby more attractive, that that jealousy would be likely to increase, and that increased difficulties would be thrown in the way of creating public libraries?—I think it is possible that, in some cases, that result might evince itself; but it appears to me, that no grant to a mere mechanics' institution ought to be made which does not contemplate the transfer of all the publications furnished at the public cost, from such an institution to any freer and more permanent institution which might hereafter be established.

984. That would, of course, render the mechanics' institutions more hostile to the establishment of such free libraries, and more unwilling to accept the Parliamentary Papers on such terms?—It might be so in some cases; but I hope a more liberal feeling would be shown, at least in such instances as those in which the mechanics' institutions have already a difficulty in continuing their existence; I think that the members of the institutions that are in difficulties of that kind ought to feel an earnest desire to see a library established upon a securer basis, so that their attention and their expenditure, supposing them to continue, may be directed to other channels, and limited within a smaller range, a range more suited to their restricted means.

985. From your knowledge of such institutions, do you think that that liberal feeling does exist between rival institutions?—I certainly know some instances in which that good feeling has been hardly evinced practically; but I do hope that, in many instances persons who are connected with the mechanics' institutions, if they find a difficulty in maintaining their own library, will gladly see a permanent library from some other quarter secured to the public.

986. *Chairman*.] Would it not diminish that jealousy if the plan you have suggested were adopted, of combining the two institutions, the mechanics' institution and the free library?—I believe it would; I believe in small towns that would be the best solution of the question.

987. Mr. *Michell*.] There is nothing in that Act, apparently, that would allow a mueum to be attached to the library?—Yes; the Act provides for a museum as well.

988. Mr. *Fortescue*.] Do you think that if the public libraries were more generally extended and better appreciated, that an embarrassed mechanics' institution, for instance, would make common cause with the public library, and perhaps contribute its own collection to the books of the new institution?—Yes, I think it would.

989. Saving itself from any further obligation?—Yes; I hear that at Bolton there is now a disposition for the mechanics' institution there to merge itself into the free public library of that town.

990. If that were to be the general result in English towns, namely, the substitution of free public libraries supported by a small local rate for the mechanics' institutions, do you think that would be a highly desirable result?—I believe a most beneficial result, and that it is true of all such institutions, as I believe it to be true of educational matters generally, that the principle of rating is fairer and more just to persons of all classes than the principle of leaving educational

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tional institutions to struggle with chance and with the varying facilities for obtaining pecuniary support.

991. *Chairman.*] Have you any general observations which you would wish to offer to the Committee upon the subject of the distribution of Parliamentary Papers?—I wish to be permitted strongly to urge upon the attention of the Committee the importance of extending this inquiry to the publications of all the departments of State, and all public Boards. There is a very large number of important works that are printed at the public charge, which at present are distributed in the most capricious manner; for example, the "Monumenta Historica Britannica," which the Committee are aware is a very valuable work, was given to the library at Peel Park, in Salford, which is upon so much smaller a scale and useful to so much smaller a number of persons than that in Manchester, and to the Manchester Library it was refused. In the case of other departments their publications have been refused to many institutions, upon the ground that they were purchasable, without any inquiry as to whether the means for the purchase of them existed; only the other day a very valuable work was issued at the public charge, a series of Statutes of Universities and Colleges, in, I think, four volumes; that is a work which ought to be distributed, at all events, to permanent free libraries; and all books like that would be of great advantage. In the case, again, of the publications of the Commissioners of Records, we obtained, with some difficulty, a grant of a portion of them, but the most popular and useful of them were not sent; for instance, the proceedings of the Privy Council, as they were edited by Sir Harris Nicolas, were not furnished to the library; the "Monumenta" could not be procured, although it was in the list sent from the Home Department; I believe I ought to add that the reason alleged was, that, subsequently to the first application the cost of the work had been reduced, from five to two guineas, and therefore it was now more easily purchasable, and that the libraries that wanted it ought to buy it: that, I think, is a bad principle, especially at a time when so many libraries exist which have no power to buy.

Lunæ, 7° die Martii, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Tufnell.	Mr. Drummond.
Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Headlam.
Mr. Cumming Bruce.	Colonel Mure.
Mr. Fortescue.	Mr. Byng.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Michell.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY TUFNELL IN THE CHAIR.

Sir *Archibald Alison*, Bart., called in; and Examined.

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992. *Chairman.*] ARE you Sheriff of Lanarkshire?—I am.

993. Have you been for some time resident in the neighbourhood of Glasgow?—I have resided for 18 years in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, and have been in Glasgow almost every day during that time; I may say, for at least 340 days in the year.

993*. With reference to the subject now under investigation, can you state to the Committee, whether, in your opinion, it would be desirable in a public point of view, that the Parliamentary Papers should be distributed to the institutions of Glasgow, either in whole or a selection from them; and, if so, what institutions you would select for that purpose?—I think it would be of great importance that the Parliamentary Papers should be distributed both to a certain number of institutions in Glasgow, that would engage to keep them and bind them up, and also that a selection from those Papers should be given to certain literary institutions in the neighbourhood, that might point out what were the Papers they particularly desired to have. But I think the great object is to have in great towns, such as Glasgow, places in which the whole of the Papers might be received and preserved for the use of those who wish to consult them.

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994. To what institutions would you give the whole of the Parliamentary Papers?—Provided they were willing to come under the obligation to keep them and bind them up, I think the institutions to which they would be of most value would be the University, if it came within the scope of the object to give them to it; Stirling's Library, and the Athenæum. These are the only institutions which I think are likely to require the whole of the Papers, and who would come under the obligation to keep them and bind them up. There is also a mechanics' institute in Glasgow, which is of very considerable extent, and which embraces a large number of the working class; but I think it would exceed their funds to keep and bind the whole of the Parliamentary Papers, and there would be only a limited number also that would be of interest to them. The three I have mentioned, the University Library, the Athenæum, and Stirling's Library, have, in a manner, public funds; and I think it would be reasonable, if they get the whole, to exact from them the condition that they should keep and bind them up.

995. At these three institutions, would the Papers be accessible to the whole of the public?—Stirling's Library, which was founded and is supported by funds bequeathed for those purposes, is an open public library; any person who chooses to walk in may do so without any title at all, and as it has some funds of its own, you might be quite sure that the Papers would be accessible to the whole of the public. At the Athenæum the books are accessible only to the members of the institution, but the means of getting admission are exceedingly easy; the subscription is only 1*l.* 5*s.* per annum, which enables any person to become a member, and they have a very large room, which would hold a large accumulation of Parliamentary Papers. I think to a number of its members the Parliamentary Papers would be valuable, particularly to the gentlemen of the daily press or the periodical press, and persons of that description who wish to obtain statistical information; and they would also hold out an attraction to the public generally to become members of the institution, and to avail themselves of all its privileges. With respect to the University Library, though of course the books belong, strictly speaking, to the members of the University exclusively, no person of respectability ever has the least difficulty in obtaining access to the books, to consult or take extracts from them. Of course, they are not allowed to take them away, but they are always allowed to go in and consult them.

996. What is the general class of the members of the Athenæum; are they of the artisan class?—The members, I should say, are composed chiefly of clerks in mercantile houses; there are 1,600 or 1,800 members; they are chiefly clerks in mercantile houses; and also members of the mercantile firms who are not able to afford the expense of belonging to any of the clubs. There are, I believe, very few members of the artisan class, strictly speaking; they chiefly belong to the mechanics' institute, and there there is a very large number. I think 1,400 or 1,500 of that class belong to it, and they have a library in which books of great interest and amusement are very much read indeed; but I should doubt whether there are many of its members to whom it would be a great object to have the Parliamentary Papers, though probably a selection would be very interesting to them.

997. Is Stirling's Library frequented by the class of artisans?—Generally it is frequented by all classes. Artisans do go in sometimes, but the greater part of them belong to the mechanics' institute, those who have a turn for these things. Stirling's Library is frequented by scores of respectable shopkeepers, and persons in that rank of life, who go into it very much. It is open in the evening, with lights and fires, and there are always some 15 or 20 persons reading there; it is open to the public generally, and great numbers go there, and the books, on certain conditions to persons subscribing for that object, are lent out.

998. Then supposing the Parliamentary Papers were lodged in Stirling's Library, it would exclude no class of persons from having access to them?—Any person may go in.

999. Have you ever heard any wish expressed that documents of that nature should be accessible to the public in Glasgow?—I have repeatedly had applications, chiefly from gentlemen of the press, to know where I got certain figures from, and whether I could furnish them with the Papers; and I have been obliged to answer, that I had only one way of getting them myself, and that was to buy them; the fact being, that there was not a single place in Glasgow where they could be found, which is a somewhat extraordinary thing in a town of that magnitude and importance. I think, in particular to gentlemen engaged in the periodical press, in editing quarterly, monthly, or weekly publications, the Parliamentary

mentary Papers would be of the very greatest consequence; by the information they contain being distilled, as it were, through their thoughts, and put into the form of argument, or worked up by them, so as to become accessible and interesting to the whole community, which you cannot expect it to be in the form merely of figures or of evidence.

1000. Have you yourself experienced the want of having access to such documents?—I have experienced the want of it repeatedly; within the last three months I wished to see some criminal returns for England, Scotland, and Ireland for the last two years, and I applied to the Chamber of Commerce at Glasgow, who purchase all the Parliamentary Papers; but I found they only preserve such as relate to commerce and their own mercantile matters, and consequently they were destroyed, and I could not get a copy of the paper I wanted in any part of Glasgow. I have repeatedly experienced that evil myself, and I have in consequence been obliged to purchase all the Papers I required.

1001. Are the Committee to understand that all the Papers purchased by the Chamber of Commerce, which are not of immediate importance to themselves, are destroyed?—They subscribe for all the Parliamentary Papers, but they destroy many which do not relate to some subject of commerce, trade, or navigation.

1002. Then you are of opinion that each of the three libraries you have mentioned should have a complete copy of the Parliamentary Papers, on condition of their keeping them bound up and accessible to the public?—That is my opinion.

1003. And that any smaller institutions, if these documents should be granted at all, should only have a limited selection?—Yes; I think it would be hopeless to attempt to give the smaller institutions the whole of the documents. In the first place, I am quite sure they would shrink from the expense of binding them; and in the next place, they would have no room to put them in; in short, they would become waste paper in two or three years.

1004. Are you aware whether there are any institutions in Edinburgh in which these documents might be advantageously deposited?—There are two libraries in Edinburgh in which they might be deposited. I do not know in what situation the University of Edinburgh stands, or whether they want them; but I wrote to the sheriff of Edinburgh (Mr. Thomson Gordon), and he recommends two institutions in that city, the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution and the Edinburgh School of Arts. I may mention that Mr. Gordon is a very able and intelligent gentleman, and very well acquainted with the subject. He also sent me a paper, which shows that the first of these institutions had last year no less than 2,500 members who attended the lectures and received instructions; and the School of Arts is a highly useful institution also.

1005. Mr. *Ewart*.] Have they libraries attached to those institutions?—They have libraries of a certain extent.

1006. *Chairman*.] Mr. Gordon does not mention the Advocates' Library?—I think the Advocates' Library, unless they expressed a wish to have the Papers, and to bind them up, and keep them for the use of the public, are not fit objects of the national liberality, if I may say so; because they have public funds, and can afford to buy the Papers if they wish to have them.

1007. Mr. *Drummond*.] That is the largest library in Edinburgh, is it not?—Yes, by far, it is the largest library in Scotland. I think if the Advocates' Library would come under the obligation to keep and bind up the Papers, it would be highly proper that they should be granted to them, because it is a great national collection like the British Museum, to which no person is refused access.

1008. *Chairman*.] Is the Advocates' Library open, like Stirling's Library at Glasgow?—It is limited to members of the bar; no person but a member of the bar is entitled to take away books, but no one of the least respectability has any difficulty in obtaining access to the books, and making what extracts they please in the rooms, only they have not a right to go in without some introduction; they require an introduction by a member of the bar.

1009. There is no difficulty in getting in?—No. The great advantage of such a library as the Advocates' Library having these Papers, if they would come under the obligation of keeping and binding them up, is this: that it is a place in which any person requiring statistical information would be certain of obtaining it. The only difficulty is, that you may circulate these Papers among bodies who

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would not go to the expense of keeping them, and consequently they would be lost.

1010. Colonel *Mure.*] With regard to the funds of the Advocates' Library, have not the funds diminished of late years?—Yes; the only revenue of the Faculty of Advocates is derived from the entrance-money of members of the bar; each member pays 200 guineas at entrance, and they had in one year 4,000*l.* from that source; now the funds have fallen off.

1011. Is it not the fact that they are rather decreased at present?—Their funds are clearly diminished; they are not more than one-third of what they were 30 years ago.

1012. Might not the diminution of their funds, then, give them a claim to a grant of these Papers, supposing they would come under the obligation of keeping and binding them up?—I think it would be extremely desirable to have them in a large national library like that, in which all persons might come and consult them.

1013. *Chairman.*] If I understand you rightly, the Advocates' Library is not accessible to the public, but only to members of the Scotch bar?—It really belongs to the Scotch bar, who alone have the right to take out books; and it is only a member of the Scotch bar, or a gentleman introduced by a member, who is, strictly speaking, entitled to come and consult the books; but in fact the liberty of consultation is given to every person who has the appearance of respectability, and that I consider the great object; because I doubt very much whether any great advantage arises from the indiscriminate right of referring to Papers and books by the public generally.

1014. Is there any other institution in Edinburgh to which you think it would be advisable to grant these documents?—There is no other I think that would be in the least likely to require the whole, or that would have the least interest in keeping the whole.

1015. Would not the mechanics' institute?—I am not aware that they would; they might wish to have a certain selection. I never heard of any other, unless it be the College Library. I think if the Advocates' Library should be one, it would be superfluous to have the Papers at the College also, because there they would be accessible to the same class of persons.

1016. Mr. *Drummond.*] Did the Advocates' Library receive copies of the works published by the Record Commission some years ago?—I believe they did.

1017. Are you aware of any other societies that did besides the universities?—I think the Advocates' Library got them through Mr. Thomas Thompson, who was interested in that subject; I do not know whether the university got them. I think there would be a greater degree of utility in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh having them, if it would take them in, than the College Library, for this reason, there is such a number of young men of education and intelligence who would have access to these books; and as that class embraces a large part of the rising intelligence of the country, it would be a great object if they are able to keep them and bind them up, that these valuable documents should be accessible to such a large proportion as 1,500 or 1,600 of the most educated and intelligent young men of the day.

1018. Is there not a society in Edinburgh called the Royal Agricultural Society?—Yes, the Highland Society.

1019. Are you aware whether that society has expressed any wish to have the Parliamentary Papers?—I have not had any communication with them, but I have heard that they do wish it; and I should say, if they are willing to come under the obligation I have mentioned of keeping them and binding them up, or they should wish to make a selection, I think they are a most useful body to have them; because I know their operations extend over the whole of the kingdom, particularly the agricultural districts of the country. The Agricultural Society embraces almost the whole of the most respectable country gentlemen in Scotland.

1020. Perhaps it would be advisable that a society like that should have Papers or Reports connected with statistics and agriculture?—I think it would be no object to them to have the whole; I am pretty sure it would not; but I think it would be very valuable to them to have statistics and a selection from the other Papers which they might point out would be useful to their members.

1021. Colonel *Mure.*] Is not the Highland Society frequently consulted by the Government and by public bodies relative to the statistics of Scotland, and particularly to agricultural statistics?—Yes, I have heard it is.

1022. With

1022. With reference to matters which, apparently, would not come under their immediate superintendence?—I think they are. The late Sir John Sinclair was an active member of that society while he lived, and he was very well acquainted with statistics generally.

1023. *Chairman.*] Have you had any communication with parties in other towns in Scotland, respecting the subject now before the Committee?—Yes, I wrote to the sheriffs-substitute at Greenock, Dundee, Aberdeen and Paisley, those being the most considerable manufacturing and commercial towns after Glasgow; and I hold in my hand the answers I received from them. I may mention that the sheriffs-substitute in these different places are gentlemen of great intelligence, who being in daily communication with all classes of the inhabitants, are peculiarly qualified to form a judgment upon the question, both from their own information, and their means of observation of the wishes of the people among whom they live.

1024. Will you be kind enough to read those letters?—The first is from Mr. Claud Marshall, of Greenock, who says: "The public library here, which is placed in the Watt Monument, I think would be a very fitting place for a deposit of the Parliamentary Reports and Papers. The Member for the county, Colonel Mure, lately wrote to Mr. David Crawford on the same subject, and Mr. Crawford recommended as above, and also the library connected with the mechanics' institution. If both can be supplied, good and well; but, if there is to be only one donation, then the public library in the Watt Monument, I think, has the preferable claim." Then he says in a postscript:—"The library has already a large collection of Parliamentary Papers by the kindness of the late Mr. Walter Baine and Mr. Wallace, during the periods of their representing the town in Parliament." The next is from Mr. John J. Henderson, Sheriff Substitute of Dundee, who says: "It would be of great use to Dundee, to be possessed of the Reports and Tables to which you allude. They might be easily sent to the sheriff clerk's office here, to be there kept for consultation, when required, by the sheriff, the magistrates and other public bodies of the town. If you could forward this desirable object when in London it would be a great obligation." The next is from W. Watson, of Aberdeen, who says: "I beg to send you the last Report of our Mechanics' Institution, which I think would be the better of having the Papers and Reports to which you refer." The next is from R. Glasgow, of Paisley, who says: "I have consulted the Provost of Paisley on the subject of your communication of the 1st instant, and we both think that it would be most desirable that the Parliamentary Papers and Reports should be sent to the Paisley Library." The following is the letter to which I alluded from Mr. John J. Gordon, of Edinburgh, who says: "I have to thank you very much for the kindness of your communication of the 1st March, and beg earnestly to recommend to your most favourable consideration the claim of two institutions in Edinburgh to be furnished with the Parliamentary Reports and Tables; these institutions are the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution and the School of Arts. It would be almost impossible to exaggerate the excellence, the usefulness, or even the practical success of the Philosophical Institution, which, I honestly believe, is at the head of all such institutions in Britain. I have enclosed some documents which briefly but clearly inform you as to the name, constitution, and actual working of both establishments. The claim of the School of Arts, from the condition of its students, is not perhaps so urgent or high as that of the Philosophical Institution, and yet the benefit would be undoubtedly great to the former on many matters of scientific and social importance."

1025. Mr. *Ewart.*] Is the Paisley Library a mechanics' institute library?—It is not a mechanics' institute; it is much the same thing; it is a collection for the working classes.

1026. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Do you not think it would be of great advantage to have Parliamentary Papers transmitted by post to these places immediately after their publication?—Certainly.

1027. *Chairman.*] The evidence you have hitherto given has been with reference to libraries which are accessible to all classes in the large towns of Scotland, but there are, I believe, a considerable number of mechanics' institutes in the smaller towns of Scotland?—There are in a great many places, and I know that in several places with which I have not been in formal communication, but I have conversed with the members, who express a great desire to be furnished with a certain portion of the Parliamentary Papers, particularly statistical

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returns; I have considerable doubt whether they will all take as much interest in them as they expect, but I think it would be extremely desirable that they should have a selection of those they think are likely to interest them, particularly statistical returns which are published yearly, and that they should select them as soon as possible from a list. I should require them to return the list with a cross opposite to those they wished to have. These institutions are so various in their character and objects, and the dispositions of the members who attend them, that it is impossible to say that any one selection would be applicable to all; they must each choose for themselves. Generally speaking, in the manufacturing and commercial districts, what would be most valued would be returns and reports, relating to manufactures and commerce; but there are also large numbers of persons who would be interested in other subjects, namely, religion, philanthropy, social improvement, the criminal law, prison discipline, and also some on the subject of transportation, and it would be impossible to say what they would each wish; but I think it is probable they would be able to choose for themselves, and it would be extremely desirable that they should be furnished with such as they wish.

1028. Do you think that examinations before Select Committees of the House of Commons upon topics of interest of the day would be of great interest to them?—I think there are several examinations which would be extremely interesting to them; I know that people in that rank of life, and, indeed, in any rank of life, find a subject better illustrated and brought out in the species of dialogue which goes on before a Committee, which is in a dramatic form, than in a didactic shape; that is the reason why so many works were formerly written in the form of dialogue, because it brings out the point so much more clearly; I think, therefore, a part of the Parliamentary proceedings, and a large part, would be extremely interesting; but as one part would be interesting in one place, and a different part in another, I do not think any mode of selection would be so good as letting them point out what they want themselves.

1029. Mr. *Brotherton*.] Are you acquainted with the itinerant libraries in Scotland?—I have heard of them, but I am not acquainted with them.

1030. Supposing there were mechanics' institutes established in any of the small towns or villages in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, for example, would it not be advantageous if they could borrow works from a parent library, and return them at stated periods, which would save the expense of having libraries attached to all those institutes?—Certainly, I think that would be a great object; if the parent institution have funds, I think it would be extremely proper, because the branches might be so short of funds, that they might not be able to preserve and bind up any Papers they might have; and therefore all that would be preserved, would be at the parent society, and I should think that lending them out to the branch societies would answer every purpose.

1031. Suppose a branch institution in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh borrowed a number of books or Papers from the parent institution, and returned them in three months or six months, those books would perform a very useful office at a very trifling expense?—Certainly.

1032. That plan has been tried, as I understand, and has answered in some parts of Scotland remarkably well?—It certainly is a very good plan, so far as the lending of such documents can be of any material value to those people. But I confess the great use I anticipate from the liberality that is now contemplated by Parliament, is not so much giving the documents to these people themselves, as giving them to another class; writers either for the public press or in some other way, who may digest the information they contain, and put it into a shape that would be more palatable to the world. I confess I despair of these people doing much of importance with them themselves.

1033. You have already stated that you think it would be a great advantage, and increase the value of these Parliamentary Papers, if they were transmitted by post, immediately after their publication, to the libraries and other institutions that would receive them?—I think that would be a most important object, especially in commercial towns, because everybody knows that upon the information obtained from statistical returns, many merchants act in carrying out their adventures. Many eminent mercantile men have been ruined from not knowing a fact, which from a table of statistics they might easily have known.

1034. For instance, tables of trade and manufactures, if transmitted on their publication, would be of great value to persons in business?—I think it would be of the greatest moment to persons engaged in commerce and manufactures.

1035. Therefore

1035. Therefore that would increase the interest of such Papers?—Yes; the very earliest information ought to be given to men of business upon such subjects.

1036. *Chairman.*] Do you happen to know whether mechanics' institutes, and the smaller institutions in the towns, are generally in a flourishing state with regard to their numbers and finances?—I think so; I can speak from my own knowledge with regard to those in the district round Glasgow. I know the mechanics' institute at Glasgow is very largely attended by members, and it has a considerable library. The books are very much read, and are in constant request, and are no doubt a very great source of pleasure and improvement to the people.

1037. Can you state whether the institutions you have been speaking of would object to paying for the carriage of the Parliamentary Papers?—I should think the smaller ones would object to it very much.

1038. To making any payment for that purpose?—Yes, any considerable one.

1039. They would rather not have them than pay for them?—I do not think the larger institutions in Glasgow and Edinburgh would object to it at all, but I think the smaller ones, having limited funds, would object to the boon if accompanied by paying the carriage; and, therefore, the better way would be to connect them with a parent institution, which would be able to defray that expense.

1040. Supposing it should be considered desirable at first to limit the number of institutions to which these Papers should be sent, can you suggest any principle which should be laid down for making the selection?—I think the only principle which would be practicable upon such a subject, would be to form some limitation by the numbers of the members; perhaps 200 or 250 members might entitle an institute to a gratuitous grant, or that it should only have a limited number until it could show 200 or 250 members.

1041. Mr. *Michell.*] How would you act if you had a district of 200 miles in extent, with a population of 200,000 or 300,000, with no great institution having as many as 100 members in that district, because there is no town, perhaps, nearer than 150, miles having more than 5,000 inhabitants?—I can only say that question supposes a state of things which does not exist in Scotland; the whole manufacturing and commercial districts of Scotland lie in a very narrow compass; they all lie in the valleys at the foot of the hills; the great bulk of the country has nothing to do with it whatever.

1042. I know that in Scotland there are districts entirely manufacturing and districts entirely agricultural, which are of large extent with a very small population?—There are, no doubt, a great many of them.

1043. A large population altogether, though not a manufacturing population, thrown over a vast surface?—I am quite aware that there are districts of vast extent in Scotland not manufacturing, with a scanty population and still fewer buildings; but I am quite sure that there is not one man in those districts who would care about having Parliamentary proceedings; you might send them there, but not one man would read them.

1044. *Chairman.*] But if there were an institution in such a town as Stirling or Dumfermline or Perth, you think they ought to have them?—Yes; those places are in the low country of Scotland; if a town of that description have an institution that would keep and bind up the Papers, it would be highly desirable to send them.

1045. Mr. *Michell.*] Stirling is one of the towns I spoke of with 5,000 or 6,000 inhabitants?—Yes, I think Stirling should have them; I think the line I should draw would be the valley between the Grampians to the north, and Edinburgh and Glasgow to the south.

1046. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that Inverness would be a proper place of deposit?—Inverness is the capital of the Highlands; I think it would be of little use.

1047. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Would not so high a limit as 250 members exclude a good many towns?—I know it would exclude some; but I cannot help thinking that to any place where you could not get such a number as 250 members the distribution of the Papers would be of little value. I think the people in the agricultural districts and in the small towns could only be reached through the periodical press. They would read papers which are founded upon information obtained from the Parliamentary Papers in the great towns, but they could do little with the raw material themselves.

1048. Do you think that applies to such towns as Forres and Elgin?—Yes.

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1049. Colonel *Mure.*] Take such a district as the western and southern pars of Kirkcudbright and Wigtonshire, such places as Wigton, Castle Douglas, and a number of other towns, none of which are within the manufacturing districts; but each of them might have a mechanics' institute, though not with 250 members, and yet it might be desirable to have the Parliamentary Papers in such a district?—I think if the expense be no object, it might, perhaps, be of very great utility to them; I can conceive there might arise in a small town of that description a man like Watt or Sir Isaac Newton, to whom it might afford the sole means of obtaining information; but I am afraid the chances of such an occurrence are not very great.

1050. Do you not think that the commercial classes, in such a district as I have mentioned, who carry on trade, foreign, coasting, and inland, even though not a manufacturing district, have the same demand for statistical knowledge if it could be afforded to them?—I think in those small towns people's ideas are very much localised, and they take very little interest even in the statistics of their own department of commerce. It is only in the great towns, where men's pursuits lead them into transactions with foreign countries, that such things are of importance. I have often conversed with people in small towns, and I have been surprised at the want of intelligence they showed, even in their own affairs.

1051. Do you not think that that affords a reason for supplying them with a means of information in those departments in which they are most deficient?—I think it might be worth while trying it to see what use they can make of it; but I confess I have very little hope until the information is distilled through other heads; there may be great utility in it then.

1052. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do you think the access to these Papers would be likely to raise the character and improve the information of the provincial press?—Yes, that is the great utility I anticipate from it, giving the means of accurate information to the provincial press; because, when they get hold of a fact, they put it into a form which everybody may be interested in and understand.

1053. Mr. *Michell.*] Can you give us any idea what number of institutions there are in Scotland with about 250 members in them?—No, I cannot; I have not the least idea.

1054. Take a district such as that from Paisley all the way down to Ardrossan: should it be deprived of this advantage, although a manufacturing district, because there are no large towns existing in that district?—I think if there were sufficient intelligence or desire for information in those towns, they would already have some mechanics' institutes with 250 or 300 members; and if they have not, I think it is a test that they have not arrived at that degree of intelligence.

1055. You would find none, then, with 250 or 300 members in that district?—No, I scarcely think you would.

1056. On the east, the Berwick side of Scotland, do you think there is an institution with anything like 250 members?—I do not know; I should not think it likely.

1057. Colonel *Mure.*] Do you not think it desirable, whilst taking 250 members as the test, that in any of these districts where mechanics' institutes are numerous (which also implies a large degree of intelligence), that rule should be relaxed in the discretion of Parliament in favour of those districts which are less populous?—I think so decidedly; I think the proper way would be to take 200 or 250 as the general rule, and make an exception in favour of any mechanics' institute, or library of a similar description, that might make an application and state their own desire to obtain them.

1058. Mr. *Ewart.*] Suppose there were a small Committee of the House of Commons, consisting of five Members, who should judge of the propriety of circulating these Papers and the applications they might receive, not only from the numbers of the members but the activity of the society itself, and the general demand for instruction in the neighbourhood?—I think that would be advisable, certainly. I only mentioned 200 or 250 members as one test; I would by no means act upon it in all cases.

1059. For instance, in a place like Annan, where there is an exceedingly active mechanics' institute, would you act upon the principle you mention, or would you not weigh the intelligence than count the number of the members?—The reason I thought 250 members should be the rule is this: I am aware there is a great number of mechanics' institutes in the small towns, who would

would in the first instance be very glad to obtain these Papers; but I doubt whether they would be able to make a good use of them, or whether they would not throw them aside as rubbish.

1060. *Chairman.*] Do you not think that, in selecting the places for distributing these Parliamentary Papers, two principles should be kept in view: one, the permanency of the institution, and the other, its accessibility?—Decidedly.

1061. If I understand you rightly, you think in large towns there should be a place for receiving Parliamentary Papers generally; and besides that, there might be a selection of Papers of greater interest to them; and, lastly, you would give to such institutions, if there were any other Papers of local interest, the means, by a special application to the Committee I spoke of, to obtain those Papers?—Yes; I think, in that point of view, the rapid circulation, particularly of statistical Papers, would be of great value to the small towns also, because there are a great number of persons whose dealings and bargains might depend upon such statistical information.

1062. In supplying to the towns these Papers, did you take into consideration at all the number of newspapers published in those towns, as a means of measuring the demand for information?—I am not aware of any newspapers published in these small towns. I know there is a newspaper published in Dumfries and in several other small towns; but, generally speaking, the small towns are provided for by the large towns.

1063. Mr. *Michell.*] Would it be a test at all where there are statistical publications, made in periodicals or otherwise, in towns?—I think if there be any town in which there is a newspaper or periodical relating to statistics, or to trade or commerce, that town would have an excellent claim to a grant; but then I think you will find all these publications are in the great towns.

1064. Do you consider that the distribution of 15 sets of Parliamentary Papers would be sufficient for all Scotland?—I should think that number would be a great boon to Scotland, and amply sufficient; at present there is not one.

1065. Mr. *Ewart.*] Is Stirling's Library the only entirely free library in Scotland?—It is the only free public library in Glasgow; I cannot say as to others

1066. How long has it been established?—About 54 years; I do not know the period exactly; I know it was established by a bequest, on the condition of its being open to all the inhabitants of Glasgow.

1067. Has it any revenues by means of which additions may be made to it?—I do not know the details of its revenues; it is open every night, with lights and fires, so that there must be some expenses.

1068. Is it well attended at night?—Yes; there are often from 20 to 30 readers there, and always from 10 to 15.

1069. How long has it been open?—I do not know; it has been opened ever since I have known it, for 15 years.

1070. Mr. *Drummond.*] Are you aware of any advantage the public derive from the delivery of lectures in the Athenæum and other places?—I think the effect of a great number of these lectures, which are every day assuming a popular more than a literary or scientific form, is to give persons a taste for intellectual pleasure rather than intellectual instruction; they are the fairy tales of the lecture-room.

1071. Is Stirling's Library a library of circulation?—Not to all who enter: only to such as subscribe a small sum for the privilege of taking out the books.

1072. Do you consider that it would be desirable these Papers should be circulated as well as used for the purpose of reference?—No; I think it is better to keep them in the Library itself; if they were circulated they would be very apt to be lost or mislaid; I think any person who would wish to consult them, or make any use of them, would go to the public room.

1073. Is the Athenæum, or any of the other libraries you have alluded to, a library of circulation?—I am not quite certain, though I am myself a member of the Athenæum; I am inclined to think that though some of the books are only allowed to be read in the room, the rest are lent out to the members.

1074. In point of fact there is no library in Glasgow of a public description by which, if these Parliamentary Papers were to be granted, they would be circulated?—Not that I know of; excepting Stirling's Library subscribers, the Mechanics' Institute, and the Athenæum.

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1075. They would be entirely confined to reading on the premises?—I do not know as to the mechanics' institute whether the books are circulated or not; I rather think they are.

1076. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Are you aware that the Public Libraries Act does not extend to Scotland, Mr. Ewart's Act, under which the town councils in England are enabled to take a poll, and if a certain majority of the ratepayers consent to impose a small rate, it may be imposed to support a public free library?—That Act does not extend to Scotland.

1077. Would you wish to see a similar Act extended to Scotland?—I think in Scotland the objection to an assessment is so great it would be very unlikely to have any success; such an Act might be passed, but I am sure it would never be put into operation.

1078. You think two-thirds of the ratepayers would not consent?—I am quite sure that they would not consent to any assessment whatever.

1079. We have had strong evidence of the necessity of establishing public free libraries in England, and the advantages they would have in many points of view over voluntary societies like mechanics' institutes, which, it appears, are not in a very healthy condition; do you not think the greater prospect which a public free library might afford of retaining its funds, and of permanance and stability, would give it a decided advantage over such institutions?—I am entirely of that opinion; I think the thing, of all others, most to be desired, is to have these publications deposited in great institutions which have permanent funds, irrespective altogether of what is raised from the members; I am perfectly clear about that; the desideratum is to find these institutions. The only difficulty I find is, that the money must be got in some other way than by assessment. If you could obtain bequests from charitable individuals, it would be a most desirable thing.

1080. Mr. *Drummond.*] Besides mechanics' institutes and other societies, which are common to England, are there not societies among the working men in Scotland, such as phrenological societies and philosophical societies?—Yes, which have different objects; I do not believe it would be any object to them to get the Parliamentary Papers.

1081. But their existence implies a great intellectual appetite among large bodies of the people?—There is an extremely strong appetite for intellectual pleasure; but what I fear is, the appetite is for intellectual pleasure and not for intellectual instruction, and that pleasure would not be taken in these Papers until the information is distilled through the minds of able writers.

1082. Colonel *Mure.*] Are you aware whether the University of Glasgow have any desire to be supplied with the publications proposed to be distributed by Parliament?—I do not know personally whether they have or not, but I think, whether they wish it or not, if they are able to give the books room on their shelves, and to bind them up, it would be very proper that they should have them, because the University is a public institution which has funds of its own, and they are likely to be increased; and though I know the library is at present extremely cramped for room, they are going to build a new room, which, I believe, will cost 5,000*l.*, with a fund which has lately fallen in to them, so that they will for some time have plenty of room, at least in a year or two; and as the University has 800 students, who are young men of intelligence, it would be a great object, if they are willing to take them, to have the whole set.

1083. In fact, where a large, respectable, and wealthy body is willing to take the publications and keep them, and give the public that access to them which they give to other books, it would be desirable in every such case to have a complete set of the Parliamentary Papers lodged in their rooms?—Certainly; I think the great object is, to secure in every one of the great towns, one or more places in which the whole of these documents may be found, and in which they may be accessible to any person who wishes to consult them.

1084. *Chairman.*] In the smaller towns you think it would be desirable to have a limited selection?—Yes, such as they might express a wish for, and which therefore, from their expressing such a wish, you might presume would be of the greatest interest to them.

1085. Mr. *Drummond.*] Is the library usually an object of attraction in mechanics' institutes?—Yes; I know several libraries in the mining districts of Lanarkshire, set up entirely by the workmen themselves, in which the books are always

always out; they are constantly in circulation and in perusal, although they are chiefly works of an interesting character, such as Sir Walter Scott's novels; but there are also books of information.

1086. Might not the distribution of Parliamentary Papers tend to give the labouring classes a greater interest in the topics of the day, and also give them a taste for less exciting literature?—I think it would have that effect, chiefly by enabling the periodical press to support their arguments by reference to facts and quotations from evidence before the House of Commons, which would bring before the minds of the people the bearing of the questions, and the facts by which their views are supported, by letting them go to the fountain head from which they are derived.

1087. And would not it enable the people to correct the erroneous statements of the press?—Yes; that is a most important thing also.

1088. Colonel *Mure*.] There is a municipal body, the town council, in Glasgow; do they not take in the Parliamentary Papers?—They purchase the Papers, but I believe they do not keep them; I believe the principal reason for that is, that they have not room for them.

1089. Then they are in exactly the same position as the Chamber of Commerce; they do buy them?—Yes, they do buy them, and keep some; I do not not know what proportion; I believe a very small one.

1090. You do not think they would wish to be included among the public bodies who would have the whole, and come under the obligation to preserve them?—I consulted Dr. Strang, a most intelligent man, and a great statician, upon the subject, and he was extremely anxious, for his own sake, that they should get the Papers, but he said he doubted whether they would have room. I will, when I go back, suggest to him to put the question before the magistrates, whether they wish him to make an application to the Committee; if it appear they can find room, I think it would be extremely desirable that they should have the Papers, because they are a body who have very large funds; and you may be sure they would be kept in a perfect state of preservation, and accessible to everybody.

1091. The object is not to supply the Papers to bodies who have large funds, and who may therefore obtain them themselves, but to supply the poorer ones?—Yes. The reason I think there would be a greater advantage in giving the Papers to bodies who have public funds, is that they would be able to bind them up, and preserve them, which is scarcely to be hoped for from the others.

1092. *Chairman*.] Supposing there is a permanent building; that the building is freehold, and belongs to the institution; do you think that would be a safeguard?—I think, if they had a freehold building, in any case it would be a security for permanency.

1093. Supposing it belongs to a body of the original supporters?—I think that is a great additional security.

1094. Mr. *Ewart*.] Would not the Parliamentary Papers on such subjects as emigration be of great public interest?—I am perfectly sure that the Parliamentary Papers on emigration would be greedily received and devoured in every part of the country.

1095. They would be useful in pointing out to people the difficulties they may have to encounter?—Yes; I think that is a subject of very great interest, affecting numbers of people; I am sure the Parliamentary Papers on emigration, showing how people got on abroad, would be of great interest and practical importance.

1096. And those Papers it might be worth while to circulate in the Highlands and agricultural districts?—Yes, I think so; with regard to them, I would make an exception to what I said about the Highlands just now; I think emigration is a matter of such pressing interest, and perhaps more so in the Highlands than anywhere else, that anything relating to it might be circulated with advantage.

1097. *Chairman*.] And also any papers with respect to the condition of the colonies?—Yes, showing the condition of people in the colonies; what are the prospects of emigrants, and how they get on abroad; all those are subjects of great interest.

1098. Mr. *Ewart*.] Do you not think the best means of education is, leading from the known to the unknown; first letting a man know his own concerns, and then leading him on to matters extrinsic to those concerns?—Yes.

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1099. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Would not the best way be to leave the matter to such a Committee as Mr. Ewart suggested; who would judge of the applications made to them from the correspondence which went on, and the claims from the different localities?—I think the best way would be to do exactly as the Honourable Member suggests, and perhaps, in corresponding with those bodies, the Papers relating to emigration should be especially mentioned; because that is a subject of such universal interest, that they would be extremely grateful to have such Papers pointed out, as they might not otherwise be aware that those things would be found in them. It might also be well to point out any Papers relating to statistics which might be of local interest.

1100. *Chairman.*] Does great ignorance prevail in the Highlands and agricultural districts of Scotland, with regard to the state of emigrants in the colonies?—I would not say so much ignorance, as delusion and error. The only information is derived from the public press, and some of the representations they put forth are extremely favourable, and others are the reverse, so that the people do not know what to believe.

1101. Then accurate information on the subject, you think would be extremely valuable?—I think it would be of great importance.

Thomas Edward Cliffe Leslie, Esq., called in; and Examined.

T. E. C. Leslie, Esq.

1102. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Member of the Irish Bar?—Yes.

1103. Are you also a member of the Dublin Statistical Society?—Yes, I have been connected officially with it for some time; I was formerly a member of the Council, and I have latterly been Barrington Lecturer on Political Economy.

1104. That society, I believe, is a very large one, and it is connected with a number of literary and scientific institutions and mechanics' institutes in Ireland?—Yes; in the society itself, I may say all classes, from the highest down to intelligent shopkeepers, are represented; it includes the commercial class largely, and many members of the bar; and it is connected with a number of other societies, in consequence of a plan which has recently been adopted of circulating its papers, on certain conditions, among those societies. It also sends them lecturers in connexion with the Barrington lectureships; and it does so without putting them to any expense.

1105. The Dublin Statistical Society is in connexion with a great many other societies, the members of which are of an inferior station generally?—I should not say they are always of inferior station. The composition of the members includes different classes in the country, as well as in Dublin. You will find the landed gentry to a small extent; many professional men in most of the institutions in large towns; and it goes down to the shopkeepers. Shopkeepers, shopkeepers' assistants, and clerks are the largest body among the members of those societies in Ireland.

1106. Are not artisans generally members?—Not generally. I should say one-fourth is about the proportion of operatives and mechanics who are members of such societies in Ireland.

1107. Has your attention been turned to the condition of those institutions with which your society is in connexion?—Yes; at the commencement of last year I first commenced an investigation into the subject, not with reference to Ireland in particular, but to the United Kingdom; and I wrote two papers on the subject, which somewhat more particularly referred to Ireland, but not exclusively. However, with reference to Ireland, I had particular means of obtaining information, for I found that the books, and Parliamentary Papers, such as the evidence taken before the Public Libraries Committee, did not give much information with regard to Ireland; so I placed myself in communication with the officers of the different institutions. I corresponded with them to some extent; and since my paper was written the plan of having corresponding societies was adopted; and I have seen the correspondence between the secretary and the council of the different societies.

1108. Can you state with what institutions the Statistical Society is in connexion?—I hold in my hand a list of 30 corresponding societies in connexion with the Statistical Society, and an appendix of nine others, which have many members, but are not in connexion. These are all I know of.

[*The Paper was delivered in, and read, as follows:*]

LIST

LIST of INSTITUTIONS connected with the DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY, under the Title of Corresponding Societies; and APPENDIX of Institutions not Connected.

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1. Ardee Mechanics' Institute.
2. Armagh Natural History and Philosophical Society.
3. Banbridge Literary Institute.
4. Belfast Social Inquiry Society.
5. Belfast Queen's College Literary and Scientific Society.
6. Belfast Working Classes' Association.
7. Belturbet Literary and Scientific Society.
8. Coleraine Mechanics' Institute.
9. Cork Literary and Scientific Society.
10. Cork Cuvierian Society.
11. Downpatrick Mechanics' Institute.
12. Drogheda Mechanics' Institute.
13. Dublin Mechanics' Institute.
14. Dublin Mutual Improvement Society.
15. Dundalk Mechanics' Institute.
16. Dungannon Society for Promoting Science, Literature, and Arts.
17. Enniskillen Literary Society.
18. Royal Galway Institution.
19. Garvagh Scientific Society.
20. Kilkenny Literary and Scientific Society.
21. Killyleagh Literary Society.
22. Kilrea Literary Society.
23. Limerick Social Inquiry Society.
24. Lisburn Literary Society.
25. Lurgan Literary Society.
26. Mountmellick Mutual Instruction Society.
27. Newry Institute.
28. Portaferry Mechanics' Institute.
29. Waterford Friends' Mutual Instruction Society.
30. Wexford Mechanics' Institute.

APPENDIX of INSTITUTIONS not Connected with the DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

1. Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society.
2. Royal Dublin Society.
3. Dublin Library Society.
4. Galway Mechanics' Institute.
5. Limerick Institution.
6. Limerick Literary Society.
7. Limerick Friends' Scientific Society.
8. Waterford Mechanics' Institution.
9. Belfast Library.

The plan has only been in operation since last autumn, and they have been coming in by degrees.

1109. There are 30 in connexion now?—There are 30 now.

1110. Do those societies pay anything in consequence of that connexion?—No; there are certain conditions; one is, that they shall send their own publications, reports, and so on; and there are certain conditions with regard to the use made of the Statistical Society's papers. The members of each society appoint a corresponding officer who has the privilege of attending the meetings of the Statistical Society; they make no charge for their papers, but they require the societies to give an address in Dublin at which the Statistical Society may deliver its publications, and consider them delivered to the Society; they do not look after the carriage of the papers to the different institutes.

1111. Is there any annual meeting of delegates from the different societies?—It is very probable there will be; that has not been done yet; it is only lately they have been brought into connexion with these societies.

1112. Are these societies chiefly of recent formation, or are there any of long standing?—Very few existed before 1840; the greater proportion have come into existence within the last nine years, and half of them have been established since 1846. That is a very remarkable fact about the Irish institutions, because they have generally come into existence during a period of great national distress; and they have not only come into existence, but have grown into a sound and healthy state, though the number of members is small.

1113. Mr. *Ewart.*] You say they came into existence during a period of distress; is there any reason for that?—No; I mention that as showing the great intelligence that was abroad.

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1114. *Chairman.*] Are the objects and arrangements of the literary societies and the mechanics' institutes the same?—They are now; the objects were somewhat different at the commencement; the mechanics' institutes were the societies that first came into operation, and they were intended particularly for operatives, not excluding other classes, and they had the usual features of mechanics' institutes; the literary societies, on the other hand, were intended chiefly for the middle classes, without excluding the operatives; they frequently commenced with only periodical meetings for lectures or reading and discussing papers; but the usual provisions and arrangements of the mechanics' institute have subsequently developed themselves, such as the library, reading-room, and sometimes a news-room; so that you cannot judge from the name of the institution anything more with respect to its members and objects than that both are pretty much the same in mechanics' institutes and literary societies.

1115. Are lectures delivered in both?—The difficulty is to provide competent lecturers, but they are very anxious indeed to have them; they cannot have lectures in all the towns as often as they wish, or at least of the kind they wish.

1116. Do you afford them any assistance with regard to the selection of lecturers?—Not with regard to the selection of lecturers; the Barrington lecturers are sent to them, but the Statistical Society does not allow them to exercise any choice about the matter; if they apply to the council, and say they want it, they send a lecturer down; but as they are themselves at the expense of sending the lecturer, they do not, of course, receive any advice from them.

1117. Are these institutions chiefly established in large towns?—They are to be found in towns of very different size and importance.

1118. Is the library a great point of attraction in the institutions?—The library is; but I think the news-room, where they are able to obtain a supply of newspapers and periodicals, is the most attractive feature; and I should add, that the periodical meetings for reading their own papers, which is a very common plan in Ireland, attract great interest, and also when they have lectures; the news-room also is one of the staple things which is of great importance and interest.

1119. Are you able to form any idea as to the average number of members in these institutions?—As the institutions are to be found in towns of such different sizes, it would not be fair to take the average by dividing the whole number of members by the number of societies, and it is quite as creditable to a small town to have 50 members, as to a large town to have 300 or 400. In fact, they go in groups. You will find there are some institutions which have as few as 20; there are others in groups of from 40 to 50; others 70, others 80, others 100.

1120. Can you state to the Committee how many societies there are having, we will say, from 100 to 200 members?—I should say there are not more than half-a-dozen at most, with a number of members above that. I do not think the number is a proper criterion of the prosperity of the institution, or of its utility.

1121. Have you been able to form any opinion, generally, as to whether they are improving or retrograding?—Decidedly improving; in some cases rapidly. I know the Queen's College Literary Society in Belfast, two years ago, had only six members, now it has 100. That, of course, is an exceptional case, that very rapid growth; but, in almost all cases, their financial condition is sound, which, looking at the cases of societies in England, is saying a great deal. They have generally a balance in the exchequer at the end of the year, and it appears their funds, in all cases, are increasing.

1122. Mr. *Ewart.*] In the south and south-west of Ireland is that the case?—The greater number are in the north; but those that do exist in the south I think are prosperous.

1123. Cork and Waterford, for example?—Yes; there are two I know in Cork which are in a healthy condition, although they are not able to obtain many things they wish.

1124. But still they are both sound?—Yes.

1125. *Chairman.*] Are they generally in possession of premises of their own?—In many cases they are obliged to get the use of a room, which is granted by the liberality of private individuals, or the town-hall; but I think they are almost always able to get the use of a room for the purpose gratuitously, if their funds do not enable them to pay for it. I think they all contemplate having, not only a room

a room, but in time a building, including a lecture-room, library, and news-room.

1126. Have any of them now buildings of their own?—Yes, seven or eight; I have not got a complete list up to the present time, but I particularly inquired into this in the course of my investigation last year, and it appeared that then there were seven or eight that were either building or that had buildings, and all particularly mentioned to me they had it in view.

1127. Are you aware what the governing bodies and managers of these institutions conceive to be the great impediment to their success?—They complain chiefly that they are not sufficiently supported by the higher classes; in fact, they are not largely supported enough to afford them the means of doing what they wish, so that it comes to much the same thing; they have not got money to provide the lectures and such publications as are necessary; that is their general complaint.

1128. There is a great demand for instruction and education, but still, nevertheless, they complain that it is an insufficient demand?—They complain that there is not a sufficient demand among the non-members.

1129. If I understand you right, the members of the institution complain?—They complain that they have not funds, and that arises from the fact that they have not more members.

1130. What is the nature of the publications which the Dublin Statistical Society distributes among those institutions?—They all bear upon the social and economical condition of the country, with reference to economical and social questions. The society is for the promotion of economical and statistical science, and its papers are in general very practical indeed.

1131. Not papers upon general literature?—No, never.

1132. Nor upon the antiquities of the country?—No, they have not had any papers upon antiquities read.

1133. Or the capabilities of the soil?—Yes, anything which bears upon the social and economical condition of the country, they are very happy indeed to have communications upon. But this subject might be treated in a way which would not apply to the objects of a statistical society, as, for instance, in a paper on agricultural chemistry.

1134. Have you reason to believe that these papers have been highly appreciated by the societies to whom they have been distributed?—I have very good reason; I have seen a great many of the letters which have passed between the corresponding officers of the Statistical Society and the different councils, expressing the greatest possible interest in the papers; and it has stimulated a plan which existed to some extent before, of reading and discussing papers of a somewhat similar kind among the connected societies.

1135. In distributing these papers, do you make any conditions to which the societies must conform?—Only the condition of sending to the council of the Statistical Society copies of every publication they themselves have, and that they shall furnish an address in Dublin for the reception of the Statistical Society's papers; they require them also to deposit one copy of the papers they send in their library, and another is to be circulated by being lent out amongst the members.

1136. How are these papers circulated among them; are they of any large bulk?—They are not.

1137. Do they form one volume, for instance?—No, they are circulated as they come out. There are two papers read at every meeting, and each paper must be read within half an hour; so that, of course, it is not very long.

1138. Are there any Reports from the public departments in this country which are distributed among these societies in Ireland; for instance, the Reports of the Committee of Council upon Education, which are distributed gratuitously?—I am not aware of any such case. I have been informed by a Cork gentleman that the Royal Cork Institution had formerly the Parliamentary Papers. I do not know how that happened. He mentioned to me that that institution had them gratuitously. I had not heard of it before.

1139. Are any Reports of the Board of Health, the Department of Practical Art, or the Government School of Mines, sent to the institutions to which you belong in Dublin?—Certainly not to the Statistical Society. I am not aware of their being sent to any other.

1140. Do you think, from your knowledge of these institutions, that a grant

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of the Parliamentary Papers, or a selection from them, would be appreciated by them?—A selection I should say, decidedly; but it would depend largely upon the principle upon which the selection was made, to what extent the selection would be useful.

1141. Will you state upon what principle, in your opinion, such selection should be made?—I would say, from the general character of the societies, that it is not exactly Papers referring to trade, and which are immediately printed, which are of most use; I should say Reports and Papers, referring to the general social condition of this country, are of much more importance, and which they would not require to see as soon as they come out; they would do at the end of the Session. I may add, also, Reports on Emigration, Colonization, Prisons, and so on, and the Public Statutes. I do not think those of a commercial or statistical character would be of the most use; that is, I mean that the members are not generally persons who could make immediate use of such information in their own business. This is with regard to the mechanics' and literary institutions in general, but it would be different in the case of chambers of commerce.

1142. Reports upon Education, for instance?—Yes; very great.

1143. Supposing a selection should be made, by whom do you think that selection would be best made, with a view to consult the interests of those societies?—If the selection was not made by Parliament, I should say the suggestion some of the corresponding societies have made is a good one, that the council of the Statistical Society should undertake it; I dare say the council would undertake it, but I have not had any communication with them on this subject.

1144. You do not think, if the choice were left to the societies themselves, they would be able to make a proper selection?—I think there are many societies that could not give you any sort of answer as to what the value of the Reports would be, who at the same time would make the greatest use of them if they got them; at present they have never seen them, and cannot know intuitively what their value would be.

1145. Have you heard any considerable desire expressed by the members of these institutions for a grant of the Parliamentary Papers?—The council of the Statistical Society issued a circular, requesting an answer, both to whether they would appreciate the Papers, and also to name the benefits they expected from them; to the first question they answered, that they were very anxious to get the Papers; they were not so well able to state what the benefits they expected would be, which, I think, is extremely natural.

1146. In consequence of the ignorance which prevails as to the nature of those documents?—Yes; very few people indeed have access to such publications.

1147. Have any of the members of these societies explained to the Dublin Statistical Society what advantages they anticipate from such a grant?—Yes; some have referred particularly to arts and manufactures and statistics of agriculture; but I myself am inclined to think they have no means of knowing the great use these Papers would be of to them; some of them have given the same answer to the question, stating that they have had no means of ascertaining their practical value.

1148. Do you think that these societies would object to make any payment for the Papers, either for the purchase or for the carriage?—I do not know with regard to the carriage; I rather think they would be disinclined to take a part in the expense of the Paper itself, the volume, or whatever it might be; but with respect to the conveyance of the different Papers, I think that might be managed easily enough, if they were sent at the end of the Session, because then the expense would not be great; but if they were to be sent just as they come out, unless they were sent free of postage, it would be a considerable expense to the different societies to have a constant system of communication kept up, and therefore I apprehend they might object to that. Besides, I suppose if sent at the end of the Session they would be sent bound.

1149. I gather, from what you have already stated, that you do not think the statistical returns would be of so much value as the investigations on particular subjects by Committees of the House of Commons?—That is my impression from my knowledge of the classes who chiefly support the institutions, and from the situations in which many of them are; in large towns there might be a considerable number of members who might make great use of immediate statistical information,

information, which might be taken into consideration in the selection of the Papers for them.

1150. You think in general that which would excite the most interest are evidence and investigations into subjects of great interest?—Yes; upon the social and economical condition of the country, and on emigration.

1151. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] You were asked just now by the Chairman as to the body you would consider best fitted for making a selection of the Papers to be sent to these societies, and you said you thought the Council of the Statistical Society would be the most proper body to make that selection if Parliament did not do it themselves?—Yes.

1152. I presume you would consider it necessary that some authority in the House of Commons should communicate to the Statistical Society a list of all Papers that come out, leaving them to make the selection?—It occurred to me they would be the most competent of any persons I am acquainted with to make the selection if Parliament did not do it for themselves; the council might say they would not do it, but that is unlikely; I am not a member of the council, and I have not had any communication with them.

1153. You would consider that, in that case, they should be in possession of a list of all the Papers?—Yes, certainly.

1154. That a list should be sent them by some authority of Parliament for them to select from?—Yes; the Statistical Society either have forwarded a petition, or it is to arrive, for a complete set of the Papers for themselves; and if they got that, they would have a very good opportunity of knowing what the Papers were.

1155. Mr. *Ewart.*] Would not Papers on Emigration be of great advantage in Ireland?—Yes, I should say of very great advantage; because I fancy such information is derived from the most inaccurate sources, such as reading a placard upon a wall as to a ship about to sail, with a description below of the country to which she is going; that is generally what the country people form their plans upon, besides the letters they receive from their friends who have emigrated.

1156. Are there any public libraries in Ireland freely open to all the population?—The Royal Dublin Society admits any person respectably dressed, on certain conditions which are easily complied with, where they may have the Parliamentary Papers as well as others; but the hours are not very convenient to many persons.

1157. You have not adopted the Act called the Public Libraries Act?—We have not the statutory power; it does not apply to Ireland.

1158. Is not that rather a question whether it does or does not apply to Ireland?—There is a reference in the Act to municipal bodies in England and Wales, and it is a general principle that acts of taxation do not apply to any parts of the kingdom, not specially named therein.

1159. That Act applies to local taxation?—Yes.

1160. However, it is considered a doubtful point?—I am not aware that it has been considered doubtful; I may also state that in the index to the statutes, it is classed by the compiler as a statute only applicable to England; and there is a reference to England and Wales only in the Act.

1161. Does the Act apply specifically to England and Wales?—It does not say it shall only apply to England and Wales, but there is a clause which mentions England and Wales. It is a remarkable fact, that it was not framed with particular reference to Ireland; because the Report of the Committee on Public Libraries named particularly that they had an application from Limerick for such an Act, and they did not mention by name any other town.

1162. Are you aware that there was a great opposition not only by Scotch Members, but also by Irish Members, who desired that they should be excluded from the Act?—No, I was not aware of that.

1163. Are there any itinerant libraries in Ireland?—I believe not.

1164. Have you ever considered the subject of itinerant libraries for the rural districts?—I have so far considered it that I found they existed in Scotland, but I do not think it would do to have Parliamentary Papers itinerating; they ought always to be in a position for reference.

1165. *Chairman.*] Is there any institution at present in Dublin which has a complete set of Parliamentary Papers?—Yes, the Library of Trinity College, the Royal Dublin Society's Library; and the Law Library in Henrietta-street. I have

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myself access to all these, but the hours are very inconvenient for me; I am generally at the Four Courts while they are open.

1166. What are their hours?—In the daytime; I think from 10 o'clock to four.

1167. None are open in the evening?—None.

1168. Do you think the Public Libraries Act should have been extended to Ireland; do you think it would have been taken advantage of in Dublin, and other large towns?—I do not think it would be generally taken advantage of at first, but I think the experiment would be made, and a favourable result of the experiment would lead to its adoption elsewhere. I should be inclined to suggest to the corporations, if they did rate, to give the libraries in aid, and say to the particular society, "Allow access to the public generally." I have found in the towns in Ireland, a rival institution always does harm; whereas, if it could be amalgamated with the other, it might be of great advantage. The interests of one and the other become identified with a party, and there are always a great many local jealousies. I have found that, in a town like Limerick, where there are three rival societies, they injure each other.

1169. Supposing free libraries were instituted, would you give them the Parliamentary Papers in preference to other institutions, like mechanics' institutes and literary societies?—No, I should say not; because I think these institutes in Ireland are flourishing, and doing a great deal of good; and I think the members of them have a claim before the general public, who are doing nothing; and, therefore, if that be possible, with reference to Ireland, I should hope to see the Act so used as to aid the institutions there, and not to benefit the public rather than them.

1170. Are you of opinion that the grant of a selection of the Parliamentary Papers would contribute to the prosperity and stability of those institutions?—I do, from the character of the Irish institutions; I do not express any opinion with regard to the English ones, but in Ireland they are very successful indeed; and they are much interested in subjects upon which they could get the best information from the Parliamentary Papers; and now they must pick it up where they can, and often from very inaccurate sources.

1171. Are there any other institutions in Ireland, besides the literary societies and mechanics' institutes, to which you would recommend a grant of these Papers?—I have mentioned the Statistical Society, which has petitioned; and there are the Chambers of Commerce, and, I think, in that case it would be of great importance that the Papers should be pretty fresh; but I do not think it of great importance in the other cases. I should add that I think the Queen's Colleges ought to receive a complete set; not necessarily fresh, but to receive them at the end of the Session, or of the year.

1172. Do you think there would be any objection to the condition being annexed, that these Papers should be accessible, not only to the members of the institutions, but to the public generally?—I think it would be very judicious, with perhaps some condition, which is easily complied with, such as that any person might have access to those papers by an order of a member, which would prevent the institutions being jealous about it; and, at the same time, the thing is so easily complied with, that it would not prevent the public from having access to them. Where the institution has a news-rooms, there might be a small charge for access to both.

1173. Are you of opinion that in these institutions there is accomodation for such books?—The institutions are so young in Ireland, that at present they would not; but their funds are increasing, and their object is to have more room, and more useful room.

1174. Are you not of opinion that it would be better to ascertain first, whether these institutions had sufficient room in which to place the Parliamentary Papers?—If it was made a condition that the room must be their own, and not the room at present in use, which is often only hired or lent, I am afraid it would exclude many useful institutions that have existed but a few years; their current expenses prevents them saving much, and therefore, they have not been able, at present, to have a separate building, or a room exclusively their own. They must depend a good deal upon the liberality of others; but, I think, if sufficient precautions were taken with reference to the trusteeship, and the security of that part of the property, it would be unnecessary to insist upon their having a building or room of their own to place them in.

1175. Mr.

1175. Mr. *Michell.*] You stated some little time since, that you thought those parts of the Parliamentary Papers which had reference to the social condition of the country the members of these societies in Ireland would prefer, and that those relating to trade and commerce would not be so much read. I will call your attention to some of the Parliamentary Reports upon commercial questions, for example, the Report upon the sugar question; do you think, in the neighbourhood of Limerick and Galway, that would not be interesting?—Yes, I think it would; I did not mean to say with reference to the social condition of Ireland exclusively: such Reports as the Honourable Member has just now mentioned would be of great interest and great importance, in particular localities.

1176. Or the Report upon the flax question, would not that be interesting in the neighbourhood of Belfast and Ballymena?—Yes; I did not mean to exclude those Reports by my answer, I merely meant to say the object should not be to turn the information to commercial account at once, because the majority of the members are not persons who would make direct use of such information in the way of trade.

1177. You said the members were particularly attracted by the news-room; do you not think those Parliamentary Papers are very nearly allied to newspaper reports, and would be of equal interest, provided they could be sent by post immediately. I call your attention, for example, to the Reports of Committees of the House of Commons with respect to elections, and so on?—Yes, I think in institutions in large towns, there can be no doubt, supposing they could have them delivered at once, or as early as possible, that those Reports would rival the newspapers; but those are not the members who make any great majority, who would refer to them for this purpose.

1178. With reference to the numbers, I wish to have some little idea of the numbers that would be necessary for an institution. Do you not think that the respectability of the members should be equally considered with the number?—I myself do not consider the number a just criterion, because you should consider the circumstances of the locality, and the size of the town in which the institute is; and I think it is much more creditable to a very small town to find an institute flourishing with 40 or 50 members, than it would be to a large town to have one with 200 or 300.

1179. Supposing these Parliamentary Papers were sent to different institutions which are at present in difficulties, would they have a large addition of subscribers; and, if so, would it render their difficulties less?—I am sure it would have that tendency, not only from the attraction the Papers would have in themselves, but the use they would be of to a number of persons who would think it worth while to subscribe, in consequence of the increased value and interest of the papers read and discussed in the societies; a system I have before alluded to.

1180. Do you think, in making the selection from such Papers, it would be necessary to consider the locality of each institution; for instance, ought they to send the same class of Papers to a seaport town that they would to an inland town?—I think it would be useful to take that into consideration; it might be difficult if Parliament itself chose to make that selection.

1181. I believe an annual grant is made by Parliament to the Royal Dublin Society for the payment of provincial lecturers?—Yes, a grant of 600*l.* per annum.

1182. Is it of any great service to those institutions?—It is of service, but there is a condition attached to the grant of lecturers which I think does harm: any town wishing to have a person to lecture must contribute 10*l.* towards his expenses. Now, when you add 10*l.* to the local expenses of hiring the room, lights, and so on, it is more than many of them who derive great benefit from the lectures can contribute.

1183. Is it 10*l.* for one lecture?—They contribute 10*l.* to the course.

1184. Of what does that course consist generally?—The lectures are generally upon natural philosophy, and scientific subjects of that kind.

1185. How many lectures are included in the course?—I think eight.

1186. You say the hire of a room; are not the lectures delivered in the room of the institute itself?—When they have a room with sufficient accommodation, but that is not always the case. The Council of the Statistical Society do not make this stipulation with regard to the Barrington lectures. They do not take

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any payment from them; the lecturer goes down, as I went down lately, and if no room is to be had they hire the theatre, which of course is an expense.

1187. You say that any town that wishes to have a lecturer sent down is obliged to contribute 10*l.*?—Yes, towards the expenses of the lecturer; it goes to him.

1188. Mr. *Fortescue.*] I think you said there are three complete sets of Parliamentary Papers in Dublin?—Yes.

1189. Are those all paid for?—Those at Trinity College are not; the Law Library, in Henrietta-street, I suppose, does pay; with regard to the Royal Dublin Society's set, I am not sure whether it is a Parliamentary grant or not; I think it is not.

1190. Can either set be taken out of the place in which they are kept?—No.

1191. Does that interfere with the utility of them?—It may; but I am not sure whether it would be wise to allow the Parliamentary Papers to be taken out; I think they ought always to be in the institute for reference.

1192. Are those sets bound up?—At Trinity College they have both a bound set and an unbound set; they receive one set just as they come out, and another they get at the end of the year without paying for it. At the Law Library in Henrietta-street, from what I have seen (when I have sent up for a copy it has come down to me unbound), I fancy they do not bind them; but they do in the Royal Dublin Society.

1193. Is there not a considerable difficulty in finding any particular Paper?—Yes, a great mechanical difficulty; you may wish to find a Paper without knowing the number of it; it would be very important to have mechanical facilities.

1194. Suppose you wanted to have a Return presented to the House of Commons four or five years ago, would it be possible to find it among the mass of Papers in Henrietta-street?—There is so much trouble in Henrietta-street that I do not myself use that library for this purpose; I know there is always a great deal of trouble.

1195. Supposing there were a selection of Papers sent from the House of Commons, would it not be desirable that there should at the same time be an index to that particular selection?—Very desirable.

1196. Which perhaps would render it desirable, again, that the same selection should be sent to every place?—Yes, perhaps so; but some papers might go without an index, perhaps; the publisher, I suppose, could easily draw up an index of the great subjects generally, without being a very minute one.

1197. Are those three sets you spoke of much used practically?—In all cases I think Papers of that kind will be used by a somewhat limited and select circle, but though they are used to a limited extent, the effects are not limited.

1198. With respect to the institutions you mentioned, do you think it will be desirable that they should have these Papers gratuitously, or that there should be any charge for them?—Unless the nature of the charge is, that they are to look after the conveyance, I think it would not be judicious to make any charge.

1199. You think there will be no danger but that they will be taken good care of, even if nothing were paid for them?—I do not think the fact of non-payment would make them more careless, but it would be desirable to have better regulations for trusteeship than is possible at present.

1200. Do you think that there is a great defect in the law with respect to the bodies who will have the trusteeship of Papers of that description?—At present the difficulties with regard to trusteeship are so great, that some of the societies in Ireland have not trustees. The same difficulties are met with as to proprietorship. Wherever there are 50 or 60 members, every lawyer knows that the difficulty of suing any one is very great. The Act of the 13th & 14th Victoria, c. 115, expressly provides for that with reference to friendly societies; it provides that the trustees shall sue, and be sued, in their own names. If any person having charge of the effects of the society either dies, or becomes insolvent, or bankrupt, the society has priority with reference to those effects over his executors or his creditors; and the same Act has other provisions also with regard to the devolution of the property to successive trustees.

1201. In the case of friendly societies, the mere appointment of trustees vests all the property in the successive trustees?—Yes.

1202. Do

1202. Do you think that some provision similar in character to what is contained in the Friendly Societies Act would be desirable with reference to these societies?—Very desirable; I know the practical necessity for it from what I have seen in Ireland.

1203. If the Friendly Societies Act had referred to these societies, it would have included them?—It does not include them; but the Act with respect to local rates provides that, before a rate is raised, the institution shall obtain a certificate from the officer who certifies the friendly societies; therefore, it places them in communication with the same officer, but it gives them no advantages from it.

1204. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that the same difficulty has been complained of in England, particularly in the last Report of the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes?—I was not aware of that.

1205. I will read a portion of the Report, and I will ask you whether the difficulty you have been alluding to just now is not the same in England: "Your committee have, during the past year, carefully re-considered the very important subject of investing the institutes with efficient powers for self-regulation and security of property. The preliminary question is, whether that object can be obtained by trust deeds alone, or will require the aid of the Legislature? The difficulties of a trust deed, unaided by legislative sanction, are very serious. They apply in some measure to the buildings of an institution, but in a much greater degree to its books and moveable property. These being either given to the members, or bought with their money, will become their joint property, except so far as the rules of the institution may affect or abridge their rights. Unless the rules are framed so as to exclude the members from all proprietary right whatever, and leaving them only a revocable privilege of qualified enjoyment, they are part owners; and the part owner of a book or other chattel is not amenable for the misappropriation of it to the criminal law, or (except where specially provided by the Legislature) to any summary jurisdiction." Is not the case here?—As to the difficulties arising from the joint ownership of so many members, I think the property should be vested in the trustees, those trustees being empowered to sue either the officers of the society, or any person outside of the society for anything connected with it.

1206. The report continues: "No trust deed or rule, which should stop short of the absolute exclusion of members from proprietary right, will remove the difficulty;" are you of that opinion?—Parliament might require the societies to vest the property of the institute in trustees; but I do not know that it would be requisite to make this an express condition, if there were simple and inexpensive means of creating and transferring trusts. If such facilties existed, the societies would naturally make use of them.

1207. Mr. *Ewart.*] Would not the vesting in the trustees include the proprietary rights?—Yes; but if there were security for the trusteeship, the trustees acting without expense to the society, that would be sufficient; at present the expense of trusteeship is so great. If a trustee retire or die, the expense of appointing new trustees is very great; they have not the securities which the Friendly Societies Act gives, and which another Act, with respect to places for religious worship, gives.

1208. What is the nature of the facilities with relation to the appointment of new trustees?—It vests the property in the new trustees without the necessity for any deed, which saves a very great expense.

1209. Do you not think that in choosing a place of deposit for these Parliamentary Papers, the probable permanency of the institution to whom you give the Papers should be very much considered?—Yes.

1210. And do you not think that another element should be the free access of the public to those institutions?—I have already said I thought it advisable that the public should under some simple conditions, such as an order from a member of the society, be admissible; but I think if they were admissible without any condition connected with the management of the society, probably the members would be dissatisfied.

1211. Do you not think that an institution connected with the municipality of the town, which is supposed to wish for the grant, would be more likely to be permanent than an institution not so connected?—Yes, no doubt of it; it must have an official existence at all times.

1212. Do you not think, then, that if such institutions as free public libraries,

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based on the prosperity of the town, could be introduced into Ireland, they would be more useful for such a purpose as is the object of this Committee?—If free public libraries were introduced, which I should be glad to see, and I hope they will be, I should like to see them under the same roof with literary societies and mechanics' institutes.

1213. Are you aware that it has been stated that the establishment of such free libraries at Manchester and Salford has not had a tendency to diminish the zeal for other institutions, but rather to augment it, by giving a taste for literature and science to greater numbers of the population?—Yes, I am sure that would be the effect.

1214. Do you not think the associating of a certain number of towns or districts together in Ireland might be a great means of popular improvement?—Assuming the question to mean a union that is already in organization under the plan of the Dublin Statistical Society, by the exchange of papers with the connected societies.

1215. Do you not think it would be very desirable to distribute Parliamentary Papers on the subject of emigration?—Yes.

1216. And that it might be done advantageously by some such arrangement as that?—Yes.

1217. *Chairman.*] Is the Dublin Statistical Society in connexion with the Society of Arts in London?—No, it has no official connexion with it.

1218. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Admitting the spirit and progress of these Irish institutions, even the very small ones in the small towns, still it is the case, is it not, that there are not many now existing in Ireland of any size, or containing any very great number of members?—Yes; the general number of members is not large; but the spirit and progress of these institutions influence the spirit and progress of the age most materially. It is the few, working for the many, who give the tone to society at large.

1219. There are not many, for instance, containing a number above 100?—Only a few; still I consider that societies which may have comparatively very few members, may be as useful in the localities in which they are situated as those in large towns; and the members of these societies are generally the most useful and influential members of the classes to which they belong.

1220. But those small societies, however creditable to the towns in which they exist, do not afford a large circle of readers?—They do not afford a large circle, but it is not only the members of the societies themselves who derive benefit from them. Independent of the social effect of cultivating the minds of a few select individuals in every town, they have generally admitted the public to be present at the discussion of their papers, and so on, which applies to a greater number of persons than the members of the society; and by their allowing the public generally facility of access to these Parliamentary Papers, under certain conditions, it would ensure the works being extended to others besides the members.

1221. Do you not think that the distributing body, whether a Committee of the House of Commons or other body, might have a large discretion, going upon the principle of providing a considerable number of these Papers, or perhaps in some few instances the whole, to the very important Irish towns, taking into consideration the claims of the smaller towns for a less number of Papers?—Yes, I think that might be a very good plan. For instance, where there are very few members, to send them only a small selection, which might be increased at a future period; but I think it would scarcely do, with reference to Ireland, to fix any inflexible limit, giving no Papers to those that do not come up to that limit, because you would exclude some of the most useful societies, as far as I can judge from the correspondence.

1222. Would you send any Papers to the smaller societies, without an application for those particular Papers?—I think the result would be, that in Ireland they would all apply, so that there would be no practical necessity for making that condition.

1223. The mere application is a certain test that some use will be made of them?—No; when they hear that all other societies are applying, they will, of course, do the same. I do not think it will be a sufficient test if you apply it.

1224. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] You say lectures are given at these institutions; are you aware that in England noblemen and gentlemen sometimes give amateur lectures; is that the case in Ireland?—That is the case sometimes in Ireland; but

but generally they have professional lecturers, or lecturers sent by the Dublin Society.

1225. In England gentlemen of rank sometimes volunteer that species of intercouse; that has in some instances occurred in Ireland?—Yes, it has.

1226. Have you observed whether that has had a good effect?—Yes, I think so. The late Earl of Belfast gave a course of lectures for the Working Classes Association at Belfast, and gave a great stimulus to the plan of founding an Athenæum.

1227. *Chairman.*] Would there be the means of ascertaining, either through the medium of the Statistical Society or otherwise, the exact library accommodation which could be afforded by those provincial institutions?—I shall be most happy myself, as I have been the person chiefly in correspondence with them, to ascertain that as accurately as I can, and communicate it to the Committee; but to do that, perhaps, would take some little time to get the answers from all the different societies; and as the Irish institutes are all young and increasing, I think it would not do to base one's calculations upon what they are at present, because I am sure they will all have more accommodation for this and other purposes in the course of 10 years.

1228. You are aware that these Reports accumulate to a considerable extent every year; so that unless there be sufficient library accommodation they would be comparatively useless?—That would be so; but you would at first only send them one year's Papers. They do not require so much room at present as they will when they are better able to afford it.

1229. Do you think it would be desirable to impose the condition, that in the event of the dissolution of any society, the Papers that had been sent from the House of Commons should not be the property of the society, but should revert to the public?—I think that is very advisable indeed.

1230. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do you not think you might limit applications from small societies, by some such plan as this: sending them a list of publications, and allowing them to make choice of a limited number; for instance, 10 volumes or 20 volumes out of that list?—If it were left to them to choose, I have no doubt they would at all events choose publications that would be of use, but I think the selection might be better made by another body.

1231. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] I think you said just now, that you thought it very desirable that these Papers should in a certain event revert to the public; to whom would you propose to hand them over?—That is a question which did not occur to me beforehand; and the only suggestion I can offer now, is that in case the Statistical Society be made the governing body to choose for the provincial institutions, it would be better to make it the recipient of the effects of the bankrupt establishment.

1232. Would not that entail upon that body the necessity of keeping papers of very great value?—I hope not; I think there would not be many cases of sending back the papers.

1233. *Chairman.*] Suppose it should be considered necessary at first, as this is an experiment, that the number of societies to whom the Papers might be sent, should be limited, what would you lay down as the rule for the selection of the societies in the first instance; you objected just now to the number of members being the principle?—I do object to that; I think the general character of their transactions, the soundness of their financial condition, and the gradual growth of the institution with regard to its members, though the number may be small, would be a principle more intelligible, because all those are indications of the utility of the institution. The recommendation of the Dublin Statistical Society might be taken as a certificate of eligibility.

1234. In that case, it would be necessary to make a strict examination into the condition and affairs of the society?—The reason why I particularly referred to the numbers is, that I think the Irish societies cannot be judged of by the same rule as the English ones; I apprehend a society in England, with only 50 members, would be in a declining condition; now the reverse is the fact in Ireland.

1235. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Do you think it might be left to the Statistical Society in Dublin to determine?—I do think so; I think the Dublin Statistical Society take so great an interest in the question, and the diffusion of information of all kinds, that they would be very proper parties indeed, as they have considerable experience in managing these societies.

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1236. And that their recommendation should be considered necessary for those societies to obtain the Papers?—Yes.

1237. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Do you think the council of the Statistical Society would be the medium of communication between those societies and the House of Commons?—I think they would; they take a great interest in the subject; they look at this plan with great anxiety.

1238. Supposing they had no Parliamentary grant themselves?—I am sure they would not look to whether they had a Parliamentary grant themselves, or not.

1239. *Chairman.*] From what you have stated, respecting the general body of persons who are the members of these institutions, I conceive there are hardly any which can be considered mechanics' institutions?—The middle classes chiefly support them; you find all classes; you find as many gentlemen, including professional men, as mechanics.

1240. Mr. *Ewart.*] I think you said one-fourth mechanics?—Yes; I found it difficult to get an analysis; I could not get an exact analysis of the classes to which the majority belong, but the information I received went to this.

1241. *Chairman.*] Can you state what is the general annual subscription of these provincial societies?—They generally have two rates of subscription; one 10*s.* per annum, and the other a lower rate, 4*s.* or 5*s.* per annum, and they also have a small charge for admission, such as a penny, to their news-room.

1242. Then there are three classes?—Yes; the 10*s.* subscribers, persons paying half the subscription, and visitors at one penny.

1243. Is there any difference in the privileges?—No; they extend the same privileges to persons paying the lower subscription.

1244. Is the governing body elected from among those paying the higher rate?—I think that varies; sometimes it is practically among those who have been from the first the chief managers, and in some cases, when those members who first founded the institution proposed to admit members at a lower rate, they did not admit them to the privilege of voting with reference to the management.

1245. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Supposing there were a body of trustees, as you suggest, in whom the whole property of the institution was vested, do you think they would consent to the whole management of the institution being in the hands of an elective body, different from themselves?—I do not see that the trusteeship is necessarily connected with the management of the institution; I do not see any connexion between them. The trustees would be responsible for the security of the property, but I do not see that they should necessarily have anything to do with the management and transactions of the society.

1246. Is there any jealousy now displayed in the election of managers?—Yes, I believe in some cases there is.

1247. Do you not think that one of the first objects to be had in view in such a distribution as is proposed, would be to supply some one institution, to be chosen in each of the large towns of Ireland, which are not many in number, with a good collection of Parliamentary Papers?—Yes.

1248. Do you not think the advisability of that course is much more evident, and that it would be more easily carried out, than the supply of the smaller societies in the small towns?—Yes; in every large and important town I think it would be very wise to give a grant of a complete set to one central institution in that town; giving, perhaps, a smaller selection to other societies where they appeared to desire it; but I think in a very large town, like Belfast, there ought to be one depository for the whole of the Papers.

1249. Belfast and Limerick;—Yes.

1250. And Cork and Waterford?—In Cork, yes; but I cannot speak with regard to Waterford.

1251. Mr. *Michell.*] You stated just now that 10*l.* was paid for a course of eight lectures?—That is a contribution towards the expenses; the Dublin Society give the lecturer the sum of 40*l.*, and they require the town to contribute 10*l.* more towards the expenses. I think that is injudicious; but they are obliged to do so by the terms of the grant.

1252. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Does not the fact of these societies finding a difficulty in contributing their 10*l.* in addition to the 40*l.* imply, that however spirited and creditable, they are decidedly on a small scale?—They have a small surplus of money, considering the other objects they have to attend to; but the Royal

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Dublin Society, I believe, do not agree in my view as to that, because I had some communications on the subject with one of their officers, and he seemed to consider it a sound rule. My own view is different.

1253. Mr. *Michell.*] Then the 10 *l.* is not the whole of their expenses?—No; they have a considerable expense in lighting and printing.

1254. The 10 *l.* goes to the lecturer?—The lecturer gets the sum of 40 *l.* from the Dublin Society, I rather fancy the 10 *l.* is meant to pay his travelling expenses.

1255. Then they do not get money for the institution by the lectures?—No; they do not derive anything from the proceeds of the lectures in general.

1256. Mr. *Fortescue.*] Have you ever heard very considerable complaints on the part of the Irish literary institutions, on the qualifications of the lecturers sent by the Royal Dublin Society, under the Parliamentary grant; complaints of the want of popularity in the subjects, and power of imparting interesting information?—Yes, I have myself received communications, stating that the lectures were not calculated to be popularly interesting; they were of too scientific and technical a nature. The lecturers are however generally persons of considerable scientific attainments.

1257. *Chairman.*] Have you any general observations which you wish to lay before the Committee, with respect to the desirableness of distributing these Papers among the institutions in Ireland?—I think almost all I had to say has been drawn out. I would just mention that I think the difficulties which Parliament has in legislating upon many questions would be very much obviated by the circulation of these Papers. Take the question of taxation: there is a great interest upon the part of the public in that question, and the greatest possible ignorance. If they had more statistical evidence of the real operation of taxation, they would see among other things, that the mode of levying direct taxation is not so important a question as whether it shall be direct or indirect. In many cases of that kind, I think the difficulty which Parliament meets with at present, from finding that the people are not adapted to the best system of government, would be obviated.

1258. Then you think it would be of great advantage that these Papers should be distributed?—Yes, I think it would be very much so.

1259. Do you think it would improve the character of the Irish provincial press, by giving the editors access to these Papers?—Yes, I think that is an important consideration.

1260. Supposing it had been stated before this Committee, that these institutions in Ireland were not generally in a sound or prosperous condition, should you think that statement is founded upon fact?—I know that it is contrary to the fact.

1261. You think, on the contrary, they are in a flourishing and improving condition?—Certainly; they are almost all in a sound condition; and several of them are improving rapidly, and particularly in their financial condition, which is very important.

1262. And you have reason to suppose that their prospects are improving?—Yes.

1263. Mr. *Fortescue.*] You would say that their weakness is not the weakness of age, but the weakness of youth?—Yes; I should say they are generally increasing in strength every day.

Jovis, 10° *die Martii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Tufnell.	Mr. C. Bruce.
Mr. Ewart.	Colonel Mure.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Michell.	Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Walter.	

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY TUFNELL, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Samuel Vallentine*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *S. Vallentine.*

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1264. *Chairman.*] YOU are a member of the London Mechanics' Institute?—I am.

1265. Are you also one of the committee of management?—I am one of the committee of management.

1266. Have you long held that office?—I have been one of the committee for about 14 years; I have been returned on about 10 occasions; the members were not eligible for re-election until they had been off the committee for a period of time; six months, for instance.

1267. What is the present number of the members of that institution?—About 460, exclusive of students.

1268. Has the number been increasing or decreasing of late?—Decreasing; about 14 years ago there were 1,400 members.

1269. How long has the institution been established?—Since 1823.

1270. Is there a library attached to your institution?—Yes; a library of about 4,000 volumes,

1271. And a reading-room?—Yes.

1272. Are the books read in the institution, or lent out?—They are both read in the institution and allowed to be circulated.

1273. Are there two distinct libraries for those two purposes?—No, there are not.

1274. Then the same books are read in the institution, and lent out?—Yes, with the exception of the encyclopedias and other works, which are strictly works of reference; those are not allowed to be circulated.

1275. Has the library been purchased from the funds of the institution, or have books been presented by individuals?—All the more valuable works have been purchased, not from the funds of the institution, but by the exertions of its members.

1276. Is the reading-room open both by day and to a late hour at night?—From 10 in the morning until 10 in the evening.

1277. When is the greatest attendance in the reading-room?—From seven o'clock till about half-past nine in the evening.

1278. The attendance in the day is not so great?—No; but slack.

1279. Has the attendance been increasing of late, or decreasing?—It keeps to an average, according to the number of its members.

1280. Can you state what description of books are chiefly in demand?—The works of which the library has lately been been composed, are chiefly historical works, and works of immediate interest; such as have created a greater interest than others.

1281. Have you ever heard discussed by the members of that institution the subject which is now under the investigation of this Committee; the distribution of Parliamentary Papers?—Certainly; and their opinion is decidedly in favour of having them; they consider them both valuable works of reference, and likely to give

give them information on matters which they would not otherwise be enabled to obtain.

1282. Have they any works of that description in the library now?—None whatever.

1283. Is there no instance of any having been presented to them?—No Parliamentary Papers whatever have been presented to them.

1284. Then the only knowledge and information they would receive from Parliamentary Papers, would be what they would obtain through the press?—Yes; many have had Parliamentary Papers pass through their hands, though not as members of the institution; I think there are few who are not acquainted with the character of them.

1285. Have they a large accommodation for additional books in the institution?—We could find accommodation for those Papers.

1286. For a selection of the Papers?—For a selection of the Papers; I presume a selection only is intended.

1287. Can you speak with reference to any other institutions of the same kind?—I have been connected with the institution at Sussex-hall, with the Whittington Club, and with the Mechanics' Institution in Gould-square; I was also a member of the Western Literary and Scientific Institution.

1288. That is no longer in existence, I believe?—That is no longer in existence, neither is that in Gould-square.

1289. Have these institutions, or have many, libraries as well as lecture-rooms?—All have libraries.

1290. Is the library a great point of attraction?—In all institutions the library is a great point of attraction; in fact it is so with many members, because of the subscription to the circulating libraries being more than to the institution altogether.

1291. Do they take in the newspapers and other periodicals in that institution?—The majority of the newspapers and magazines, and also a great portion of the smaller serials.

1292. To what classes do the members of these institutions generally belong; are they artisans?—But few artisans; they form a very small proportion, indeed, of the members of those institutions in the Metropolis.

1293. Did they not originally form a considerable part of the members?—When the London Mechanics' Institution was first established it was the only institution of the kind in London, and the working classes, doubtless, expected something from it, and indeed great numbers of them filled its rooms at that time; in fact, to such an extent that we were induced to remove it from the original establishment, which was in Monkwell-street, Clerkenwell, because the number was so great that the accommodation became too small for them, and we removed to where we are at present, Southampton Buildings, which is exactly the reverse of a working neighbourhood, being entirely surrounded by the inns of court; the working men fell from the ranks of our members, and now we have few, if any.

1294. Is it your opinion that the class of artisans has failed in consequence of the inconvenience of the situation?—No, I rather think under any circumstances they would have fallen off. I think they were disappointed as regarding what it was to give them; thus, for instance, a working man who was employed taxing his brain perhaps from six o'clock in the morning until seven in the evening labouring at his trade, when he came to an institution like that would be unable to give his attention from mere exhaustion to lectures on the more abstruse sciences, which he otherwise would do, and consequently he did not acquire that knowledge he expected by it.

1295. What is the class of persons that chiefly belong to the institution now?—They are principally persons employed in light avocations, such as clerks, and the middle class of tradesmen and their relatives. We have many of the sons and relatives of working men as students of the institution; these approach more nearly to the class for which the institution was established, being chiefly the sons of working men.

1296. Are they a particular class?—We term them students, being under the age of 18; and students we do not allow to interfere in the management of the institution.

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1297. What privileges have they?—The same as the other members, except voting and being eligible to be on the committee.

1298. What is the annual subscription?—Twenty-four shillings per annum.

1299. Mr. *Ewart.*] What is the subscription of the students?—Members are allowed to send their sons or apprentices either to the classes or the lectures, at half the subscription.

1300. Is the number of students increasing?—They are rather on the increase, but the increase is but trifling.

1301. *Chairman.*] Do you infer from the sons of artisans becoming students, that there is a greater desire than there has been, on the part of that class, to belong to these institutions?—I think there is a great desire on the part of that class to belong to these institutions, but their daily avocations render their attendance useless to them.

1302. Mr. *Ewart.*] They have not time to attend them?—They have not time to derive any advantage from them; I have myself seen working men attending a lecture and going to sleep, from mere exhaustion; they have not time for such study.

1303. *Chairman.*] Does any way occur to you by which institutions of this kind could be rendered more attractive to the working classes?—I think were lectures delivered upon certain branches of the arts and sciences, they would be made attractive to a vast number of the artisans of the metropolis, but unfortunately we cannot do so, inasmuch as we have not the funds to pay for them.

1304. Mr. *Ewart.*] What is the financial state of the institution?—Our expenditure exceeds our receipts.

1305. Have you been long in that state?—For some years. We are at a somewhat greater disadvantage in that respect than other institutions. We commenced with a heavy debt to Dr. Birkbeck, and it is exactly the amount of the interest, or nearly so, that we find ourselves deficient in at the close of the year.

1306. Have you at all liquidated that debt; is it in process of liquidation?—At first we occasionally lessened it, but for the last 10 or 12 years I do not think one shilling has been paid off; indeed, we have increased the debt by having to add the interest upon it.

1307. Are you acquainted with other mechanics' institutes in London?—I am.

1308. Are they in a similar state of insolvency?—None of them are paying their expenditure. The institution at Sussex Hall depends partly upon donations, which are obtained at its annual assembly; and I heard this morning that the Whittington Club are about to call a meeting of its members, for the purpose of considering what plan will save it from immediate dissolution.

1309. The Western Literary Institution has been dissolved?—That has been dissolved, and so has the City of London Literary and Scientific Institution.

1310. In fact, are you aware of any of these mechanics' institutes in London which have assumed a permanent form?—No.

1311. Has there been any attempt to establish what are called public free libraries in the city of London?—I have not been connected with any of them. I have heard that attempts have been made to establish two; one in the city, and one in Mary-le-bone.

1312. Do you think it would be an objection to these mechanics' institutes, that they seem to be so little capable of permanency?—I think the members expect more from them than it is possible to obtain funds to give; they come expecting much, and not receiving it, they go away disappointed.

1313. Mr. *Walter.*] You spoke of lectures as being an attractive feature in mechanics' institutes, so far as they can be obtained?—They are very attractive; in fact, it is invariably one of the three features of these institutions; they may be classed under the heads of Lectures, the Library and the Schools.

1314. As far as the working classes are concerned, do you imagine they would consider lectures on literary subjects particularly desirable, or lectures connected with the practical working of their trades or professions?—If we could afford to give them, as we formerly did, there is no question the institution would be more attractive.

1315. Do you, from your knowledge of the working classes, think they are likely

likely to derive benefit from any kinds of lectures that can be given to them on subjects connected with the practical working of their trades; I mean artisans of the class of carpenters and stonemasons; do you apprehend those classes of mechanics would be likely to obtain any benefit whatever from lectures on their respective trades and professions?—Most assuredly I do, but in an institution like the mechanics' institute of the metropolis, it is impossible to give lectures on particular branches of trade, on account of the cost of them.

1316. Can you mention any instance of lectures which have been given upon any subjects connected with the trades of carpenters and stonemasons, for example, from which those classes could derive any benefit?—Not immediately.

1317. Do you not consider that the mere routine of the more laborious mechanical trades is so purely mechanical, that it almost depends entirely on practice and efficiency in the artisan, rather than from any scientific knowledge he is likely to acquire from lecturers?—I do not think that a knowledge of the theory and rules of his trade could fail to make a carpenter or a stonemason a more skilful workman, or to assist him in the practical operations of the trade. There are many workmen who have been taught a particular mode of carrying on their operation, who would be hardly able to give you a reason why they did so.

1318. Can you state whether or no the masters in the various trades are anxious to encourage their men to attend the various lectures?—I cannot speak from recent experience; formerly it was decidedly the case; and there are instances of masters and their men being on the committee of management together.

1319. Mr. *Michell.*] Are the houses in which these mechanics' institutes are held, freehold, or rented?—All rented.

1320. What is the annual rental of such institutions?—Ours is 220*l.* per annum; Sussex-hall is 130*l.*

1321. And you calculate that you must receive 24*s.* per annum from your members to defray your expenses?—To defray the rental, the expenses of the the library, lectures, a proportion of the expenses of the classes, the purchase of newspapers and periodicals; in fact all the incidental expenses.

1322. Mr. *Ewart.*] Do you think that the mechanics who come to these institutions are very well qualified by previous education to derive all the benefits they might do from the different sources of information which are open to them in these institutions?—The mechanics are far more qualified at the present day than they were at the time of the formation of the institution; the schools now place education within their reach at a much more easy rate than at that period.

1323. Still, do you think if they were better educated they would have still more appreciation?—The better a man is educated, the more he would naturally appreciate these institutions.

1324. Do you think mechanics are yet sufficiently well educated to derive the full advantage from those institutions?—In the vast majority of instances I think they are fully so.

1325. Then how do you account for the failure of these institutions?—From the circumstance I have mentioned; mechanics cannot obtain that knowledge from the lectures which they wish.

1326. Have they made any attempts to form institutions themselves?—No, the only one they attempted to form themselves within my own knowledge, speedily assumed a political character which in course of time destroyed it.

1327. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Would you presume that finding they were not quite sufficiently educated to derive all the benefit they might do from your lectures, would be rather a stimulus to them to seek to educate themselves better?—They would endeavour to do so, if they had the books placed within their reach; but I do not think those would be the books they could obtain by going to free libraries; they must be books they could take away to their own homes, and read them there, or take to their workshops and read at meal times.

1328. Mr. *Michell.*] Do you think if prizes were established at the institutions which mechanics principally attend, it would induce them to read?—We have had a few prizes; we have a prize at one of the classes of the institution which is tolerably well competed for.

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1329. Mr. *Brotherton.*] What number of volumes have you in your library?—Between 3,000 and 4,000 volumes.

1330. What is the general character of the books?—The library is rather of a light character.

1331. You have no Parliamentary Reports?—A few reports on statistical subjects occasionally stray in.

1332. Mr. *Walter.*] Do you consider that artisans are unable to obtain from private study the same advantage they could derive from lectures?—I think if the books were placed within their reach, they could obtain as much, if not more information than they could obtain from lectures.

1333. But the books are placed within their reach, are they not?—No, we have no means of doing so.

1334. Have you not a library?—Yes; but it does not consist of books on subjects of the trades of which we may presume our members are.

1335. Do you apprehend that any lectures would be of the slightest use, unless they were followed up by private study?—No.

1336. Then the possession of a sufficient library of practical works is of at least equal consequence with obtaining good lectures?—Decidedly; a carpenter, for example, in our institution, would find Nicholson's Carpentry, but he would find scarcely any other work on the subject.

1337. Does not the failure of your means of obtaining such works militate very much against your success?—No doubt it does; if an artisan coming to an institution like ours could take a valuable work of reference home with him, and study it for a long period, I think the consequences must be beneficial.

1338. Supposing a free library were to be established, containing an adequate supply of books; they would be, in your opinion, of more use to mechanics than institutions which merely provide lectures without adequate libraries?—Assuming the question to confine the use of the books to the room in which they are kept, I think not.

1339. I assume them not to be confined to the room in which they are kept, but to be lent out?—In that case I conceive such libraries would be of immense advantage to the working classes.

1340. Mr. *Brotherton.*] What are the subjects of your lectures generally?—They vary; they are generally on various branches of philosophy and science, literature, music, and the fine arts; in fact, every subject that is likely to interest both a select and a general audience.

1341. Are the lectures well attended?—It depends upon the subject.

1342. What are the subjects which are most interesting?—Light literature and music; an experiment was made some time ago by the late Dr. Ritchie, to give a course of lectures on electricity, commencing with its simplest experiments, and proceeding as far as the knowledge of the science had then reached; while he lectured on the mere alphabet of the science, he was exceedingly well attended; but when he came to the more abstruse parts, the audience gradually got small by degrees, until he was himself compelled to give up from proceeding in the course; in fact, from the occupations of the members and the want of time, they are unable to follow the lecturer beyond the starting point.

1343. Lectures on mechanics and chemistry, then, are not so well attended?—Not when they get beyond the attractive experiments.

1344. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that the terms of subscription in your institution are higher than those generally demanded throughout the provinces?—It is the lowest subscription in the metropolis.

1345. Are you aware of the general amount of subscription to mechanics' institutes in the provinces?—I scarcely believe they are much less than ours; I think they are 5*s.* per quarter.

1346. Mr. *Michell.*] Practically, I suppose, newspapers are what are read and attended to most in your institution?—I do not think newspapers are more attended to than the higher periodicals.

1347. "Punch" probably is very much read?—We have the most popular of the periodicals and serials, but I may state that I have seen "Punch" lying on the table of the reading-room, when the "Edinburgh Review" and the "Quarterly Review" could not be obtained.

1348. *Chairman.*] If these institutions were in the flourishing condition they once were, do you conceive that a selection of the Parliamentary Papers would be a valuable addition to their libraries, and would encourage a taste for a higher description

description of literature amongst the members?—Without question, I have not the slightest doubt in my mind, neither have any of those with whom I have communicated upon the subject. Mr. *S. Vallentine.* 10 March 1853.

Mr. *Richard Abbatt*, called in; and Examined.

1349. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you have had considerable experience in the management of itinerant libraries in Cumberland?—Yes, I have had some experience. Mr. *R. Abbatt.*

1350. Have you also seen the working of mechanics' institutes in that part of the country?—I have had less experience in that part of the country than in some others.

1351. In what part of the country have you had experience?—I have had some experience in Leeds, principally connected with an itinerant library, which was about being established, I think, in the West Riding.

1352. Will you describe to the Committee when these itinerant libraries in Cumberland were founded, and in what manner they are conducted?—They were founded in consequence of a circular which was issued in London in February 1851, a copy of which I hold in my hand.

[*The same was delivered in, and read as follows:*]

JUVENILE PERAMBULATING LIBRARY.

SEVERAL interviews and some correspondence having taken place between Mr. George Moore, Mr. John P. Foster, and Mr. Richard Abbatt, for the purpose of establishing a juvenile perambulating library among the following villages and their vicinity in Cumberland, viz., Bothel, Torpenhow, Ireby, Bolton Gate, Sandal, Catlands and Greenfoot, Parson Bridge, Bolton Lowhouses, Mealsgate, Baggraw and Brayton, Blennerhasset and Kirkland; it was resolved, at a meeting held in London, 10th February, that such a library be formed, and that parties interested in and connected with those villages be applied to for their aid and co-operation in carrying out this object.

It was moved by Mr. *G. Moore*, and seconded by Mr. *J. P. Foster*, that, for convenience in the meantime, Mr. Richard Abbatt be appointed the secretary, to whom communications favourable to the object are respectfully requested.

The following rules and regulations were, as a basis, agreed to:—

1. That a suitable person in each village be appointed librarian, to lend the books out to young persons and children subscribing each one penny a month.
2. That a fresh supply of books in a case be supplied to each librarian every alternate Saturday.
3. All the villages or stations shall be on equality as to priority in receiving the new books; and the books, for convenience, to circulate in the direction of Bolton Gate, Ireby, Torpenhow, Bothel, &c.
4. No sectarian, controversial, or political books to be admitted.
5. When the books have performed the circulation of the villages, a committee of subscribers to the amount of one guinea will determine their future purpose.

London, 10 February 1851.

Previous to that, an attempt was made to introduce the economical principle connected with these libraries, so that the number of associations which may belong to any one of the libraries makes no difference in the expense; that is to say, the whole of the villages in Cumberland could be maintained with a constant supply of books by the same expense which has been incurred with respect to these nine; as soon as the library is once supplied with books it may be maintained in all its efficiency with a supply of new books periodically, without any addition to the expense on account of the number of villages. It was introduced in the first instance among the stations of the Caledonian Railway, as far as Carstairs; but it was never brought into operation because the officers of the railway saw the advantages of the library which was proposed to them, and which I proposed to form at my own expense, and the thing was taken very much out of my hands, and ultimately a permanent library was established in Glasgow which is very flourishing, but it is not upon this itinerant principle.

1353. Was it first established only for the benefit of the workmen on the railway?—Only for the workmen on the railway, but it never got upon the Caledonian Railway; that would be a year before this one was established in Cumberland. I happened to be the auditor of the Caledonian Railway at the time, and I had some facilities for introducing it there; but the officers took it very much under their own care, and it was made a general library; I think beneficially in that case; because the class of persons who are to be benefited by libraries on

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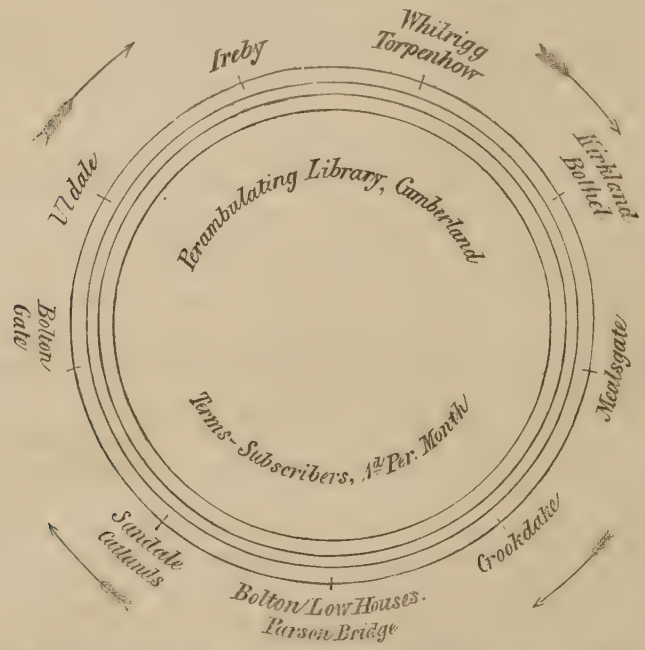
railways are men whose minds can only be given to the lightest kinds of reading; their attention, particularly the engine-drivers and stokers, is so fixed on their duties, so kept up by the spur during their journeys, that they cannot give attention to any serious reading; and, therefore, I think the library afterwards established in Glasgow was perhaps as beneficial as if it had been according to the itinerant principle.

1354. Will you now explain the itinerant principle; what sort of books are purchased, what class of persons subscribe, and in what manner they are circulated from one village to another?—The class of persons who are benefited by the libraries constitute the whole population at large, including the rich (if they may be so denominated), and also the poor, who can subscribe one shilling each. The subscription is one shilling per annum; those who are able to afford it sometimes give half-a-crown as their annual subscription; but, generally speaking, one shilling is the subscription of the country when it is in operation. There is not so much difference between the rich and the poor as in many other places; people in that part all know each other, and they all unite in a thing of this kind with more facility than would be the case in some other places; so that communication and intercourse may be said to be very general among the more wealthy and the poor in that part. The books are chosen by a committee in Cumberland, which include the clergymen and the librarians, of whom there are nine, one in each village where the stations are; the names of the villages are placed around a circle, according to the diagram I hold in my hand.

[*The same is delivered in, as follows:*]



One of the principal places is Ireby; which is a small town; then Torpenhow is the next; that is about two miles and a half from Ireby; then Bothel is a mile from Torpenhow; then Mealsgate is about two miles from Bothel; then Crookdake is about a mile and a-half from Mealsgate. The names are placed round the circle according to the locality. The books, which are a pretty large quantity, in a case, and weigh perhaps 36 lbs., are moved from station to station every six weeks.

1355. How are they moved?—There is a messenger appointed specially for the purpose of moving the books round every six weeks periodically. He takes the books which have been at the Ireby station, and moves them to Torpenhow; those that have been at the Torpenhow station are moved to Bothel; those that have been at the Bothel station are moved to Mealsgate; those that have been at the Mealsgate station are moved to Crookdake; so that the books come round to each place, and at last complete the circle. Then they have a supply of new books, and the old ones are given in. They have gone round this circle when they come off, and if there are any books that can be read beneficially a second time,

time, they are made to go round again; but, as a general rule, they have a fresh case of books, and therefore new ones are added.

1356. Do you always begin at the same place?—No; Ireby gets the books in the first instance, and the next new books will be given out at the Bolton Low-houses, which is at the opposite point of the circle; and in that consists its perambulating principle, that all the stations are upon a perfect equality on the score of receiving the new books; no station can have a superfluity, and none can have a deficiency of books at any time.

1357. After Bolton Lowhouses, where are the new books given?—To the opposite point, next to Ireby. They begin at Ireby; then they are given to the opposite point of the circle, Bolton Lowhouses; then to Torpenhow; then to Sandale; then to Bothel; that is the order of giving the cases of books out. Thus a new case is invariably given out to these places, just as the old ones come in every six weeks, and it is that principle which makes the thing so perfect. It is quite immaterial about the number of the stations; here there are nine, because the villages lie pretty nearly together; 50 or 100 could be supplied with the same ease and expense as soon as they are all set going with books. The principle would be invariably the same. First, they would begin at the upper part of the circle; then at the lower part; then at the place next to the upper part; then at the place next to the lower part, and so on alternately; and thus giving them out in that way there is perfect regularity maintained. I could prove the principle I have spoken of in the easiest way. It has been tried mechanically, and has been found perfectly correct. We had a small circular machine, which merely contained the number of cases of books, as they are given in, and by moving a wheel round the several conditions attending the delivery were found to be perfectly correct.

1358. Do the subscribers themselves recommend any books to the committee?—Yes, they recommend books to the committee; any one who chooses may nominate a book, but they are selected by the committee.

1359. Mr. *Brotherton.*] And the books keep accumulating?—We have not had a very long experience; it was only in March 1851 that it commenced, so that it has not been a very long period, only a year and a half, that the books have been accumulating in this way: it was found that some of the books would bear a second reading over again, and it takes some time before they go round, of course; they are only moved from station to station once in six weeks, and therefore I have no doubt there are a number of books which are comparatively of a less useful kind, in the hands of the librarian or treasurer, and they are intending to form a permanent library for the union.

1360. Are there any expenses attending the circulation of those books?—I think the messenger is paid 7*s.* for taking the cases round, it takes him two days; that is all the expense.

1361. The subscriptions then are more than adequate to the expenses, and enable you to accumulate books?—Yes; I imagine they have 30*l.* in hand now, beyond the expenses.

1362. Now suppose there were a parent society in the centre of that circle of villages, and that the wealthy as well as the poor subscribed to the parent library, and each village had the privilege of taking out, we will say, 100 volumes for three months, and returning them to the parent institution; supposing that parent institution had 20,000 or 30,000 volumes, all the villages could be accommodated with books, and the persons who could afford to subscribe would go to the parent library, and that should be a free library in the town; would not that be an improvement upon that perambulating system?—We think that the effect of motion is a very great advantage to these villages; when books can be had at a library by making even a little effort, they do not always avail themselves of it, but when the books go right to the place at once, and we can then give a fresh set of books altogether to the public, it is better that they should not know what they are; it is considered to be a very great advantage in that manner of conducting the library. The books go round to these stations; in the case suggested they would have to be at the parent library. If there were a parent library in the centre, each village might send for 100 volumes, and return them. It would be very much on the same principle; the books in that case would go to the villages.

1363. Those in the villages would make their selection from the general catalogue of the parent institution, and get 100 volumes of books; and when

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those volumes had been read, say at the end of three months, return them to the parent institution that they might go out to another village?—Yes, they might.

1364. Would not that have a tendency to unite all the villages in support of the parent institution?—It might do so. This library was established from the absence of any funds for that purpose. This is more economical, that is, there are no more books bought than can be read, and they are all read, because they all go round.

1365. *Chairman.*] Where are they deposited after being read?—They are deposited at Ireby; the treasurer lives there.

1366. Mr. *Brotherton.*] What security is there that the library would continue to be for the benefit of the public?—I suppose none.

1367. If the funds are exhausted, some one has the power to dispose of these books?—One of the rules is, that "the patron or president shall have the power to call a special general meeting of the subscribers whenever he shall consider it necessary to do so." No one else has the power of doing that.

1368. *Chairman.*] What description of books are read with the greatest interest?—I think the lighter reading books are read with the greatest interest. The condition of the country, I think, should be a little understood; they are, generally speaking, in a backward state as far as learning is concerned, and they have still habits of intemperance, though they are getting the better of them, and therefore it is to be supposed that they would read the lighter books in preference, though books of a more serious kind are taken there, and a very great number do take books of an instructive character. Those who compose the London Committee, Mr. Moore, Mr. Foster, and myself, came from these villages, and we are acquainted with the people throughout, so that we had some little advantage in establishing a library of that kind.

1369. What are the books suggested generally by subscribers to the committee?—Those suggested are generally of an easy reading kind, rather than very serious reading.

1370. Works of fiction?—Yes, there is no restriction; the suggestions come through the committee in Cumberland, consisting of the clergymen, the officers, and the librarians. I think the clergy have the greatest influence in directing the people as to the nature of the books, but generally speaking the people are more desirous of reading the books than selecting any for themselves. They are not far enough advanced to have much discrimination as to the difference between one set of books and another. The books contained in the catalogue I hold in my hand are pretty much of my own selection, because I had to furnish a case of books every fortnight, and therefore it was necessary to do it at once; and having business of my own to attend to, I had not much time to give to it.

1371. Is the number of subscribers increasing?—I think they are pretty much as they appear in this list. It is very much of an infant society now; I imagine the number of subscribers at 1 *s.* each will continue increasing.

1372. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Have the subscribers any property in the books, supposing any subscriber leaves?—I think not; that is not mentioned in the rules.

1373. He gives up his interest in the general stock?—Yes, I suppose so.

1374. Mr. *Michell.*] When they send out those books, if there be a wish to have them again, is there any course that may be taken by the parties so that they may obtain them?—Yes, it is understood that if there is any desire to have the books again they will go regularly round, and that one of the objects in establishing a perambulating library, was for the purpose of having a depository for any books that might be wished to be kept and read.

1375. I observe in the catalogue the "Botanist's Manual," which gives the elements of botany?—Yes, that is one of the books.

1376. Does that ever get read in its progress round, or does it come back just as it went out?—I should think perhaps it would hardly be read with a botanical view; but in all books of botany there are a great number of interesting facts, and such books would be read without going entirely through the work, perhaps, for the sake of the information which would thus be got.

1377. I also observe, "Learning to Act," "Learning to Feel," and "Learning to Think"; do those works get read?—I think they do, though they are rather serious books. There is a considerable number of persons who are inclined to be serious, and who read serious works. Out of the number of subscribers, some

would not do so as a matter of course; but I know many, and some of the younger people, who do. I consider those books are much read by the class of persons to whom I have alluded; that is, those who are inclined to be serious, of whom there are many.

1378. *Chairman.*] Do you suppose that the Parliamentary Papers would be circulated in an itinerant library of this sort, or do you know what Parliamentary Papers consist of?—Yes; these people are all, to a certain extent, politicians in their way, and I think they would read works of that kind with great avidity. That is pretty much the thing they profess a little to study. The newspapers, of course, are generally their books upon political subjects, because they have no others. Before this library was established their books were limited in number; they got all their information from the newspapers, and their political views are what they are more disposed to talk upon than anything else.

1379. Mr. *Michell.*] You are aware that in the Parliamentary Papers there are reports upon the growth of flax, and the growth and manufacture of sugar from beet-root; do you not think such things would be very useful?—Yes, they would be very instructive.

1380. Mr. *Brotherton.*] And if the Parliamentary Papers were sent immediately upon their publication, by post, do you think they would excite considerable interest among the subscribers?—I do; I think it would be the means of increasing the knowledge of the people to a very great extent; the information which is derived from that source is of the first character, and it is that which makes it so valuable.

1381. *Chairman.*] Information respecting the social condition of the people in various parts of the country, and investigations into the subject of emigration, for example?—Yes.

1382. Would subjects of that kind be interesting to your subscribers?—They would be very interesting to them; I can speak with great certainty as to the truth of what I am advancing, that they would be of great advantage to the people among whom we have been lately working.

1383. And also reports of the inspectors of mines and factories?—Yes; indeed everything which comes from Parliament has a character of authority, which information from no other source would have with them.

1384. Supposing it should be considered right that a selection of the Parliamentary Papers should be given to an institution like this; do you think you would be able to state what description of Papers, and what number, would be of the greatest use and interest to them?—Yes, reports on cultivation and the improvement of the land; information on our colonies and on emigration. This is almost entirely an agricultural district; there are no manufactures, and the trades which are carried on are merely for the purpose of supplying that agricultural district.

1385. There are a great number of small proprietors called states-men, are there not?—That used to be the case, but it has very much fallen away. I left the village of Torpenhow at an early period, very much attached to the place, and I have been in the habit of going down once, and sometimes twice a year occasionally, for the last 30 years, so that I take much interest in these things. At the time of my early remembrance almost every person in that district lived on his own property; but now things are so much changed that there are, I think, only two or three persons who live on their own property in that village, consisting of about 45 houses. I remember asking the question of my mother, and she gave me the names of those who lived there in 1768; at that time there was not a single inhabitant in the village of Torpenhow but who lived on his own property, with the exception of the farmers at the Hall; the cottages were held under the manor of Whitehall, at the tenure of one day's shearing; the tenants used to shear for one day, as a customary rent for holding the cottages. But things have altered very much from that time to this. Persons have got large farms, and the small states-men have disappeared, their lands having got into other hands; and now one-half, or perhaps three-fourths, of the village is held by a gentleman who had many years a school near London, Mr. Railton: he has 40,000*l.* or 50,000*l.* in value of these estates in his possession, so that all those small landholders, or states-men, as they were called, have disappeared.

1386. Mr. *Brotherton.*] Has the population increased?—The population has remained stationary since 1801, or rather since 1809, when the inclosure of Torpenhow common introduced a number of labourers' cottages into the village.

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1387. Then those states-men go to the towns, I suppose?—They become labourers.

1388. Do they remain in the same place?—They remain there pretty much as labourers.

1389. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Still inhabiting the same locality?—Yes, these lands were left to them encumbered in some degree, and they had not resolution to change their mode of life, and the consequence was, that they went out of their hands, but they remained, generally speaking, in the character of labourers.

1390. Were they generally involved in their circumstances?—Yes, many of them were involved by their fathers; by small encumbrances upon the land.

1391. Have you any means of knowing whether there was among them a desire to purchase neighbouring properties, even if for so doing they were obliged to borrow the money?—No, I do not think they aspired to alter their position in life.

1392. They had not farms of sufficient size to cultivate with profit?—No, 40, or 50, or 60 acres, was the common run of them, and they were obliged to keep two horses, so that the expenses ran them out.

1393. The farms were too small to be profitably cultivated?—Yes; now the farms are held by large farmers in the neighbourhood, and Irishmen are brought forward pretty much as hinds; those who will work cheap.

1394. *Chairman.*] But the subscribers in the villages to this itinerant library are chiefly small farmers and labourers?—Yes, they are very much and universally connected together, those that are considered the most respectable, and those that are poor; perhaps the very poorest would hardly do that, but we have offered that for any one who has a difficulty in raising a shilling, we would pay it if they would read the books.

1395. Mr. *Michell.*] You state the payment is only 1*s.* a year; but it appears from this list, that there are 14 subscribers who pay as much as all the shilling subscribers together; there are 14 subscribers who pay 14*l.* 14*s.*, and all the shilling subscribers only pay 14*l.*?—Yes; it was intended to benefit that class.

1396. It is not in fact carried on by the shilling subscriptions?—We consider the shilling subscription will be ample for the purpose of maintaining itself. At present we have not laid out all the money; the treasurer has still about 30*l.* in hand. The London committee gave 10*l.* 10*s.*; Sir Wilfred Lawson, 5*l.* 5*s.*; and others 1*l.* 1*s.* donation; we have not been called upon for our second guinea subscription yet.

1397. *Chairman.*] The amount subscribed by the shilling subscribers is sufficient to keep the library in existence?—Yes, they could not read all the books; it is upon the economical plan I have mentioned.

1398. You will be able, I suppose, to get some money from the sale of the books?—Yes, I apprehend if the books were to be sold at present, it could be maintained without any subscription for some time.

1399. Is this the only instance of an itinerant library having been established within your knowledge?—The only instance I know of; I had an interview with Mr. Baines and others in Leeds, with a view of establishing some in Yorkshire, but I do not know whether they have been established or not.

1400. No others have been established in Cumberland?—No.

1401. Is it contemplated, within your knowledge, to establish others in Cumberland?—No, except that the books which should be provided might be very beneficially employed in other villages. There was a little peculiarity in this; the scheme originated in London, and those who have had to carry it out are resident in Cumberland, and there is not so much interest taken in the thing by the committee in Cumberland as would be the case had they originated it themselves. I am, however, informed that it is in contemplation to establish a similar library in the district adjoining one of the stations, Crookdake, by the clergyman of that parish (Bromfield).

1402. How do you get the books from London?—They are sent down by railway.

1403. Who purchases them?—I generally purchase them. We endeavour to get them with the full discount off.

1404. What discount do you get off?—I can only get 16, but Mr. Moore gets the whole discount, 25 per cent., off, so that there were 20*l.* worth of books sent down a short time ago with the full discount off.

1405. *Chairman.*]

1405. *Chairman.*] Can you state from observations of your own, or from what you have heard from others, the effects which have resulted from the institution of this library?—The feeling amongst the readers themselves is, that they like the books very much; they are very much pleased with the library and everything else; they have nothing to find fault with. I think if the books are of a proper character great benefit will always arise from it as a matter of course, but I cannot speak as to the fact. It takes some time before the benefits are really seen in cases of that kind.

1406. You mean as to its effect on the moral character of the inhabitants of these villages, in keeping them from the public-house, or in giving them a taste for reading?—Yes, I think it has a great tendency to do that; and, as far as I have heard, there has been some improvement in that respect, but that is only from what I have heard.

1407. You stated you had some experience in mechanics' institutes, but not in Cumberland; will you state where you had that experience?—At Leeds; and pretty much from what took place when I went down once or twice about the establishment of this itinerant library; I have also been connected with the Working Man's Educational Union from its commencement; and I have naturally been thrown a good deal in the way of mechanics' institutes, as to their operations; but not being myself a member of any mechanics' institute, I have not any very close knowledge of the thing; the people are very much in the practice of receiving their instruction and literature from lectures, which are made very easy now by means of diagrams, and things of that kind. There is one objection to itinerant lecturers, that they have great opportunities of instilling anything they please into their hearers' minds; that is the only way in which the people can be taught now.

1408. You stated you were interested in the Working Man's Educational Union?—I was one of the persons who, along with Mr. Scott, originated that plan.

1409. How long has it been in operation?—We met on the 18th December 1851, in Exeter Hall, for the purpose of establishing it. It was Mr. Scott's plan, and I joined him in it.

1410. In what way does the Working Man's Educational Union differ from the mechanics' institutes?—The object of the Working Man's Educational Union is to produce diagrams, at a cheap and easy rate, for the purpose of enabling lectures to be given without the trouble of the lecturers' drawing diagrams themselves. I have got some specimens here, which will show at once of what nature the diagrams are. One illustrates the rotundity of the earth; another represents the earth itself. (*The Witness exhibits the same.*) By means of the light thrown around in these diagrams, lectures are made very easy; it aids the lecturer very much having anything by which the hearer may be guided by his eyes, as well as his mind.

1411. Colonel *Mure.*] Are those things printed, or prepared by hand?—These are prepared by hand; but they are published, and are sold to subscribers at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* each.

1412. Then there must be a great demand for them?—Yes; there is a greater demand than can be supplied.

1413. *Chairman.*] Is there a library attached to that institution?—No.

1414. How many members are there?—The committee consists of about 18 members, and there are a considerable number of vice-presidents of a very high character.

1415. How many working men of the institution itself are there?—I really hardly know how many subscribers there are.

1416. Do they pay a subscription?—About 1,600*l.* has been paid by subscription for the purpose of publishing these diagrams.

1417. Are lectures delivered there?—No, it is not for the purpose of delivering lectures, but merely to enable lectures to be given in different parts of the country by producing these diagrams at an easy rate, and recommending books, by which the lectures may be made up.

1418. There is no building belonging to the association in which lectures can be given?—No.

1419. Mr. *Michell.*] The object is to encourage young men to lecture in a country place?—Yes, that is very much the case.

1420. To give them an opportunity of bringing out their talents in that way?—Yes;

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—Yes; on some subjects small books are published by the union for the purpose of aiding lectures.

1421. *Chairman.*] Have you no reading-room or library at all?—No.

1422. You are aware the object of the Committee is to inquire, as far as possible, whether it would be advantageous, in a public point of view, to distribute a select number of statistical and other documents among the literary societies and mechanics' institutes in London and the provinces; are you of opinion, as far as your experience goes, that that would have a beneficial effect?—I am decidedly so.

1423. Will you state why?—I think as the source from which the information comes is one that can be fully depended upon, everything that emanates from it is of great value, and that it would greatly increase the knowledge of the people upon those subjects, and consequently the effect would be beneficial.

1424. You think that is desirable?—I think it is very desirable; at present the people are left very much to chance in their education beyond a certain point, being at the mercy of those who undertake to be lecturers, and the information they give is often inaccurate.

1425. At present they have no means of correcting misrepresentations which are made with regard to public events?—I think they would take everything which comes from a Parliamentary Committee as to be depended upon; information given in that way, having gone through a certain ordeal, would certainly be more valuable than what they would gain in other ways. For that reason, I think if those Papers could be made available, it would be extremely beneficial to the country.

1426. Are you of opinion that great care should be taken in the selection of the Papers which are transmitted, so that there should not be any of a useless character sent?—Certainly.

1427. You are aware that the bulk of Parliamentary Papers is such, that if the whole were transmitted it would probably be impossible for any institution to retain them, and therefore it must be left to some one to make a selection?—Yes.

1428. On what subjects do you think these Papers would be particularly useful?—I think education would be one of the subjects. Anything relating to the productions of other countries would be exceedingly valuable; and perhaps the most valuable of all would be improved modes of agriculture. I am speaking now more with reference to this district I am best acquainted with. They have a great deal of shrewd sense in that part, perhaps as much as in any part of the kingdom, and they would take any information of that kind, and apply it, I think, to beneficial purposes.

1429. Are there any mechanics' institutes established in Cumberland?—Yes, at Carlisle, Workington, Wigton, and other places; they are the principal towns, but they are at a considerable distance from any of the villages in this district I have been speaking of; I suppose they are beneficial in the towns of Cumberland, but reading societies are getting very much more liked by the people than these mechanics' institutes. There is a working man's reading-room at Penrith, which is entirely formed of mechanics; still it is not of the character of a mechanics' institute.

1430. No lectures are delivered there?—Only gratuitous lectures, I believe; I gave one there on New Year's-day, on astronomy. I happened to be in that neighbourhood; I saw they were a rising society, and I offered them a lecture, and they took it with pleasure; but I am not a lecturer myself.

1431. Do they take in the periodical publications in that society at Penrith?—Yes.

1432. Mr. *Michell.*] You stated that the messenger was paid seven shillings for taking the books to the stations; is that for making one round?—Yes; it takes him two days to take the cases round; they are about 36 lbs. in weight, and it is about 18 or 20 miles round.

1433. He gets seven shillings for those two days?—Yes.

1434. Is he obliged to have a horse?—No, he goes on foot; they think less of walking such a distance in that part of the country; they are a good deal accustomed to it.

1435. *Chairman.*] Have you any general remarks you wish to offer on the subject now before the Committee; the distribution of Parliamentary Papers?—I have no general observations to make respecting the question immediately before the Committee; it is more with respect to education at large, that I think

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it would be advantageous. The people now are going to be taught, either by Government or by private individuals, by means of lectures by individuals who will either do it gratuitously or by being paid for their labours, and I think the time seems to have come when it will be very desirable for some more direct aid to be given by Government toward that object, which is now very much the subject of conversation with most people.

1436. As the taste for education is increasing, you think it very desirable that all authentic means of information should be circulated among the classes who generally belong to these institutions?—Yes, that the information they get should be of a better character than what is given now.

WILLIAM HUTT, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. *Frederick Warren*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *F. Warren.*

1437-8. *Chairman.*] YOU have had, I believe, considerable experience in the operation of mechanics' institutes throughout the country?—I have had extensive experience of that kind.

1439. With what institutions have you been most conversant?—For a very considerable part of my experience, with the Manchester Mechanics' Institute; for some years past, with institutions ranging from Manchester to London, and from London to Falmouth in that direction, and as far as Glasgow and Paisley in that direction.

1440. In what character, have you become acquainted with these establishments?—First as an inquirer or seeker after the advantages which I supposed they would impart; secondly, as taking a general interest in the promotion of education amongst my own class; and thirdly, as a lecturer on some of the practical subjects connected with our manufactures.

1441. You spoke of your own class; to what class do you consider yourself to belong?—The working class.

1442. You have given lectures in various parts of the country at mechanics' institutes?—I have.

1443. Now what is your opinion of the value of these institutions to the working classes?—The great value would consist in their directing the mind to subjects which it would be advantageous to them to pursue; suggesting courses of study, the elements of which they might get in the institution, and which would have to be carried out, as in my own case, not at the institution, but at home.

1444. Do you think that practically these institutes are of value to the working classes?—I do not; as a rule, the working classes are not associated with them.

1445. They are not in general supported by the working classes?—As a rule they are not at all so.

1446. To what cause do you attribute that?—There are a variety of causes, I think; in many cases the persons establishing or conducting the institution appear to me (I say it with deference) not to have a correct estimate of the character and wants of working class minds.

1447. What change then would you suggest in the institutions themselves, in order to render them attractive to the working classes?—That they should be conducted by men, in the first place, having a practical acquaintance with the condition, character, inclinations, tastes and habits of the working people; and in the second place, that they should so systematise their educational operations, as that they should reach those people; what I mean by that is, that supposing I were establishing a mechanics' institute, I would take steps to bring the working classes to the institute, in order to receive general information; then if I found I could not get the people to the institute, I would take the education to the people somehow.

1448. Do you consider their efforts are not now conducted through the agency of the working class at all?—I do not know one which is so conducted. I know some that have some of the working class element in them, but not much.

1449. You stated you did not consider that mechanics' institutes in general as useful to the working classes; are you speaking of the present condition of those

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those institutes, or are you speaking of such institutes in their early origin, or were they always in the state in which you now represent them to be?—I can only speak of them for the last 20 years, and I should say during the whole of that time they have been conducted by, and their advantages have been received by, a class other than the working class. I think that 20 years ago itwas just possible that, in Manchester, at any rate, there might have been more of the working class element in the institution than there is now.

1450. By whom are the advantages of the institutions generally received?—By the middle classes, shopkeepers, clerks in warehouses, and so on.

1451. I presume, you consider them to be of some utility with reference to those by whom they are supported?—I think so, decidedly; that when they are conducted upon the principle of educational establishments, they are a blessing to the people who go to them.

1452. By what means is information generally conveyed to members of the institution?—By classes, by the library, and by lectures.

1453. Are the lectures generally well attended?—It depends upon the sort of institution and its position; some institutions have their lectures generally well attended; others, and the greater part of them, I should say, are not well attended. Provided the lecture be of a character which should accord with the nature of the institution; for instance, on some practical subject connected with the progress of the class they were intended to serve, the probability is they would not get a good attendance under present circumstances; and that arises, I think, mainly from the fact that lectures of that kind have not been encouraged by the managers of institutions; and when they do entertain a notion of them the sum offered for their delivery in many cases has not been sufficient to defray the cost of carriage of apparatus necessary to make an audience understand what the lecturer was talking about. The consequence has been that men have been got to lecture on such subjects who have neither had a practical acquaintance with them, nothing to demonstrate with, nor any aptitude for teaching. You will readily conceive what the result of such lecturing must be.

1454. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Does their non-attendance upon such lectures as relate more immediately to matters with which they are themselves conversant in their respective trades and professions, arise from any feeling in their minds that they know more about the subject than the lecturer himself would be likely to know?—No, I do not think it does; I think it arises first from the fact that the men engaged in trades do not go to the institutions; and secondly, from the causes spoken of in reply to the previous question.

1455. Mr. *Michell.*] With regard to lectures, is it not your opinion that they fail a great deal from not being advertised. That lectures and other things which are largely advertised, do get a large amount of attendance, while those lectures belonging to the institution being scarcely advertised at all, get no attendance, although the lectures are nearly the same?—To some extent that has its influence in the way spoken of, but I should say, generally speaking, the people announcing a lecture do take steps to make it pretty well known in the neighbourhood.

1456. *Chairman.*] Do you think that, generally speaking, the subjects of the lectures are judiciously selected for the purpose of imparting information to the working classes?—I am afraid not.

1457. You have yourself been a lecturer?—Yes, I have, and therefore I should speak with some delicacy about the efforts of other people.

1458. On what subjects have you given lectures?—Early on, in my efforts of this kind, I lectured on mechanics, and on the rudiments of physiology; sometimes I have lectured about a screw-driver, and sometimes a gimlet, or any tool that came to hand. I got men together where I could, and talked to them about their tools, and I found considerable interest awakened in the men's minds. For instance, a carpenter would feel very much interested to hear all about his gimlet; a thing he had been handling all his life, and supposed to be simply a gimlet, and found it was a compound instrument of great utility and importance, requiring considerable skill in the manufacture, and of great importance to himself as a workman.

1459. A lecture of that description was addressed chiefly to the working classes?—Yes, to the working classes; among whom I have made some efforts.

1460. I think you described the parties to be benefited by lectures, as belonging to others than the working classes?—Yes; but I have got away from the usual track sometimes, and got amongst the working classes. The question was, what

subjects

subjects I had lectured upon? I lectured upon these subjects in the early part of my career. Those I lectured upon in connexion with mechanics' and scientific institutes, have been, first, the cotton trade and manufacture; secondly, bleaching, dyeing, and calico printing; thirdly, on the arts applied to the metal trades; fourthly, on the principles of ventilation.

1461. That was at Manchester, I presume?—Yes; and in many places besides, including London, Oxford, Bristol, Exeter, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, &c. For the illustration of these lectures I have some tons of machinery and apparatus, with one set of which I can take cotton from the pod, and go through every process of its manufacture, and bleach, dye and print calico as accurately as they do in the usual manufactories and print-works. With another set I have been able to illustrate many of the beautiful processes in the metal trades, such as polishing and etching steel, turning, burnishing, and dressing brass, gilding, silvering, bronzing, &c. In connexion with all these things there is a good deal of interesting and useful information; and while I have been engaged in the manufacturing or other processes that formed the basis of the lecture, I have endeavoured to impart this information. In that way, I thought giving a fair idea to the audiences of the subjects I was talking about, and conveying through their medium correct information as to the construction of the machinery; the ingenuity and skill requisite for such construction. Then again, to point out the influence which this trade is exercising upon a very large number of the people, and of the other trades of the country, and endeavouring to awaken an interest in that same cotton trade, and to make the people feel, whenever I have had an opportunity of talking to them, that trades were not simply isolated things, with which nobody but those engaged in them had to do; but that they were parts of a system, the whole of which goes to make up the prosperity and progress of the country.

1462. Did your efforts, generally speaking, excite the interest you desired amongst the working classes?—I never had the opportunity of reaching the working classes with those things, except on the cotton trade, where large numbers in Manchester attended the whole of the lectures.

1463. I think you said mechanics' institutes, with whatever objects they commenced, have subsided in general into little more than reading-rooms?—Generally speaking, mechanics' institutes are little more than lending libraries.

1464. Are the libraries generally well furnished?—In the large towns I found them very well furnished, in the small towns the contrary of that.

1465. Do you think it would assist in the objects of these institutions to supply them gratuitously with such Papers as are printed by the Houses of Parliament?—If a judicious selection were made from them I think it would; to supply the usual Blue Books would be of little use, I think.

1466. What description of Papers do you think would be the most useful then?—Papers relating to the general economy of the nation, as well as its general government, I think would be important. All matters connected with the moral and intellectual progress of the nation; papers which would convey information relative to our colonies and dependencies, or which had reference to the laws by which people are to be governed, and to changes in the law. It would, I think, be desirable that they should be made acquainted with these things.

1467. You think the diffusion of such Papers would have a useful tendency to correct error and convey useful information?—I think it would, because as the matter stands at present, the working classes, every now and then, take a deep interest in political matters, and they are dependent entirely for their information on those matters upon men who are, generally speaking, very ignorant of the truth about them; and hence they are very much led astray as to what the Legislature can do, and should do, and as to their own ability or inability to do things. The tendency of the teaching upon political matters generally has been to destroy instead of to enhance the self-respect of the people, and such teaching I conceive to be conducive to the very worst influences.

1468. Do you think such Papers would be attractive to the working classes?—I think they would, after a time; with the present arrangements of these institutions they do not get the working classes; the working classes do not go near them.

1469. Suppose the Papers were distributed with the understanding that the

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room in which they were kept was to be thrown open daily to all who chose to present themselves, do you think that would attract the working classes to them?—It would become a free library or reading-room in that case; those free libraries and reading-rooms, so far as I have seen of them, have attracted large numbers of working men and women; they have gone to those places in numbers.

1470. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Would the subscribers to mechanics' institutes be satisfied with their room being thrown open to persons who would pay nothing towards the institution?—Decidedly not, I think.

1471. Then it would scarcely do to make those Parliamentary Papers generally accessible to the working classes; and consequently, it would scarcely do to make mechanics' institutes the depositories of those Papers?—If it was intended to throw the room constantly open to anybody; I think, however, anyone coming and inquiring for those Papers should get an opportunity of looking at them, though they were not members.

1472. *Chairman.*] You think they should have that occasionally?—Yes, I think the Mechanics' Institute Directory everywhere would freely accord that.

1473. Mr. *Michell.*] You would not have them admitted without the recommendation of a member?—Yes, I think it should be only necessary for a man to present himself at the Library, and say he would take it as a favour to be allowed to look at a Parliamentary Paper, to have it handed over to him.

1474. Do you not think it would be better to allow members to recommend persons?—No, I do not think it would.

1475. Do you think that one or two days in the week would be sufficient for those Parliamentary Papers to be open?—No, I think they should be available at all times when it would suit the convenience of a man or his inclination to inquire for them.

1476. But do you think that people would subscribe to the institution at all if they could get admission at all times for nothing?—I understood the question to allude simply to the Parliamentary Papers.

1477. Then I would ask this question; is it your opinion that a room should be appropriated to the Parliamentary Papers, and the Parliamentary Papers only, and it should be open free to anybody who comes there?—If such a room were appropriated to such a purpose, I think it ought to be open free to any person who comes at any time.

1478. But no other part?—No.

1479. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Have mechanics' institutes generally the means of appropriating a room to such a purpose?—I should say not.

1480. Supposing Parliament to agree to give a certain number of these Papers to public institutions, has any party occurred to you as the proper party to choose the Papers to be sent?—I have never thought about it. I certainly think, if such a selection is to be made, a man should make it who is really acquainted with the people, and who could come to a fair conclusion as to what would be useful to them.

1481. Then it would scarcely be your opinion that any Members of the House of Commons at present would be a good authority to vest it in?—I should scarcely think the Members of the House of Commons would make such a selection as would be likely to meet the conditions I have stated.

1482. Are there any parties in the institutions themselves who could communicate with any Members of the House of Commons, so that they may depute to them the duty you suggest?—I think it would involve a larger amount of trouble and expense than would be gone to, because before the people at the institutions could select they must have the books.

1483. *Chairman.*] Would not the titles be sufficient?—I think more than the titles would be necessary.

1484. Colonel *Mure.*] It has been suggested in the course of our inquiry that one mode would be to send down a list of the various Parliamentary Papers circulated during the Session, to certain institutions who wished them, or were supposed worthy to have them, and that they should themselves mark such works as they thought would be likely to interest them, returning that list to the Parliamentary body authorised to issue the Papers, and then that they should be sent down to them?—Amongst the better arranged institutions you would very likely get a fair selection made, but I submit if you were to send such a list to some of the remoter institutions, you would get a very curious set of replies. A Blue-book there, is not simply a Blue-book, but a very awful matter, about which

which they do not know anything at all. The more they looked into the list, the less they would be likely to know.

1485. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Do you think the grant of any such Papers should be limited by reference to the number of members in those institutions; that there should be a limit drawn, below which they should not be furnished at all?—I should hardly think that, because I believe information to be as necessary to men in those quiet places as in the more crowded ones, and therefore I think if the Papers are to be distributed, they should be distributed universally.

1486. You do not consider members a test of the intellectual state of the institution?—No, not as regards the intellectual state of the greater number, but I think it has something to do with being a test of the quality of the directory of that institution.

1487. But you would not suggest any limit as to numbers?—I would not suggest any limit as to the spread of that information.

1488. You think they ought to be distributed generally?—Yes, that every man they concerned should be able to get at them, when necessary.

1489. Mr. *Michell.*] Are the institutions able to pay the expense of carriage, do you think?—Yes, I think so.

1490. *Chairman.*] Do you think it would be a desirable thing that the distribution should be made gratuitously, or that the institution should pay the carriage of the works, or contribute otherwise towards the expense in some degree?—Decidedly, if they are to be the property of the institution, I think they should contribute towards the expense in some small degree.

1491. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Do you think that will add to the appreciation of them?—Yes; I think continual givings of these things lead people to rely upon somebody else, and that without self-reliance they would not appreciate as they ought the use of any thing.

1492. Mr. *Michell.*] The question I put was, whether they are in a position to pay the expense of carriage; whether they have the means of doing it?—Yes, I should say so; if they have an institution at all, they would have the means of doing that.

1493. Are they not in debt generally?—I think they are to some extent in debt, but that seems to be a matter inevitably associated with things of this sort.

1494. What are the expenses of giving lectures; supposing you were to give lectures every 10 miles in the country, what would be the expense of giving each lecture?—It would depend entirely upon the character of the lecture.

1495. Suppose the lecture could be given in one evening?—Still it would depend on the character of the lecture; on the amount of research the lecture required, or the quantity of material required to illustrate it, and so on.

1496. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] With regard to the mode of issuing these papers, supposing they were granted, do you think it would be desirable that they should be forwarded immediately on coming before the House of Commons, or that the purpose would be answered by a selection being made at the end of the Session?—I think the more prompt the issue, the better.

1497. Does that answer refer to the whole class of Parliamentary Papers, or only to some?—I think the whole class of selections; I think the anticipation of being able to get at what was going on here would inspire people with the desire to see what it was all about.

1498. If the Government should send these Papers out without expense, would it then be desirable to send them out without the expense of carriage, instead of charging it to the institution; for instance, sending by post?—If the Government could send them down without any expense, there would still remain the cost of the Papers, which I should say, ought to be defrayed in part by the institution; if the Government could do it without inconvenience and expense, it would be a matter of kindness, and of course would be appreciated.

1499. You find these institutions are generally in debt?—Generally speaking, there is some debt connected with them.

1500. Do you find the institutions occasionally disappear, not answering their purpose, and being unable to pay their way?—Not generally; but very frequently they sink so low as to be inadequate for the objects for which they were established.

1501. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Are they now increasing or diminishing in point of numbers?—

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numbers?—They are increasing in point of numbers of institutions and members I think.

1502. Mr. *Headlam.*] Of what class are the increased numbers?—Generally shopkeepers, and what is called the middle class.

1503. Do you think the fact of the existing members consisting chiefly of that class, makes mechanics and working men unwilling to belong to mechanics' institutes?—I should say, from the fact of their being found to be such places as mechanics' institutes are, they feel a great diffidence in resorting to them, I felt it to be so in my own case. When I first went to a mechanics' institute to take my admission ticket, I had the greatest difficulty in making my way through a very large open door, and up a very wide staircase, although I had 5*s.* in my hand to pay for my ticket, and there was nothing to bar my progress but my own feeling.

1504. When you first joined a mechanics' institute you were a labouring man yourself?—I was.

1505. And since that time you have obtained your present position by your own industry?—Yes; but I am a labouring man still, though not in the same sense.

1506. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Do you find there is much disposition on the part of the class of persons who at present constitute the majority of the members of these institutions, to induce the working classes to join them?—I think there is a great disposition that the working classes should join, but no great efforts are made to bring that about.

1507. When it has been brought about to any extent, do you observe that the effect is beneficial in uniting the different classes together?—I never in my experience saw it brought about to any extent; whenever it has been done individually, I have invariably found the result to be beneficial to the individuals, and if it could be done generally we should soon cease to hear of angry feeling about "classes."

1508. Has it been the habit in the institutions with which you are connected, for noblemen and gentlemen of altogether independent position, such, for instance, as the Earl of Carlisle, to give lectures at these institutions?—Oh dear, no; that is quite a new feature.

1509. Do you think that feature likely to produce beneficial results on the characters of the institutions, or promote the general appreciation of the institutions?—Where judicious and good men—as I believe the Earl of Carlisle and Lord John Russell to be, in the course they took—come forward in that way to lend their influence, it must be an influence for good. I think, however, that when a desire to get Lords and Prime Ministers to preside or lecture prevails, so as to lower the estimate in which the usual sources of instruction are held, then it would produce very much evil.

1510. *Chairman.*] Generally speaking, are you of opinion that these *dilettante* lectures are beneficial to the institutions?—I am afraid not; I am afraid they direct the minds of the members to minor matters, when their minds ought to be directed to more important ones.

1511. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] By minor, you mean less practically useful matters?—Yes, less practically useful. I think the object of mechanics' institutes ought to be to direct mechanics in the principles of the arts they practice, to make that the great point.

1512. Colonel *Mure.*] Do you think it would be possible, generally speaking, to induce people of that class to take a permanent interest in institutions of the kind, unless they had also some motive of amusement or excitement after their day's labour?—My own experience leads me to think the working classes might be made to take as beneficial an interest in practical matters as in the foolish things they now take an interest in; I will give you what I believe to be evidence to that effect. When I first began to feel the advantages of education, I suppose I thought a good deal more of it than people would who had all their lives had that advantage, and to me ordinary matters appeared very wonderful. I knew exactly that the condition of the minds of the men by whom I was surrounded and amongst whom I went, was very much like my own; that they were unenlightened, that they really knew nothing about those wonderful things that I first became acquainted with in the Manchester Mechanics' Institute; and feeling a desire to impart that which I found to be so wonderful in influencing my own feelings, completely breaking up my previous notion of things, especially as to what constituted

stituted manliness and so on, I began to feel a warm desire to distribute that information to others, hoping it might produce the same effect upon them. Independent of mechanics' institutes, which I should not have thought of going to face in the way of talking then, I took measures to make other people acquainted with these things; and I had an opinion then, which I still retain, that to begin so as to produce the full effect of teaching and elevating, it was necessary to begin at the bottom to clear away, perhaps, the worst difficulties first. After having taken lessons of a surgeon in physiology, I myself prepared some rude diagrams; and my first step was to go into some of the lower parts of the town, where I knew that beggars and thieves, and that class of people dwelt. I cast about, and in the very first instance I got a cellar, in which a sort of school was kept.

1513. *Chairman.*] Where did that take place?—In Manchester. I got the man to let me have the loan of his cellar, after a good deal of bargaining, for one shilling a night, and the remains of the candles. Then having secured that, I got 100 cards, and, by the aid of an old press which I was allowed to use at a printing-office, I put some letters on them, not in first-rate style, but still I put some letters there which intimated the fact that I was going to talk to the people about themselves, about their health, on a certain evening; and then, arming myself with these cards, I went to the houses, right from loft to cellar, and having walked in, or stood at the door, I told them I was deeply interested in their welfare, and I wanted to say something to them, and I would meet them on the Wednesday evening following to do so. I met with a good many rough things, and a great many hard and unkind words, but I knew all about that, and I prevailed on some at last to take a ticket, and they promised me to come. The first night I met between 30 and 40 of that class of people, many of whom had a strong suspicion that I was somehow or other connected with the police, and wanted somebody, and that I took that step to lay hold of him or her; I assured them I was not at all so, but I said, "You can take your own measures about that," and after sundry difficulties of that sort I met the people. When I got into the room I found them somewhat obstreperous, still retaining an inkling or idea that I was there for no very good purpose. I had got the diagrams up before they came, but they were all Greek to them, they knew nothing about the matter; and after setting a watch at the door, and occasionally sending a scout, I suppose to see if the coast was clear, I got on with what I had to do. I addressed them respectfully, and not more kindly than I hope I felt towards them, and during something like an hour and a half, I showed those miserable people (miserable in their condition truly) a great many matters which they knew to be true, and at the same time I told them what the consequences were to themselves of neglecting those things which are necessary to health. When the lecture was concluded I found just as kind a feeling in their breasts, though somewhat uncouthly manifested, as I have found in the breasts of other people when I have addressed them on these matters. Of course I knew the people's characters correctly, and I knew the circumstances in which they were brought up, and with which they had to contend, were of a very debasing kind, and I knew or believed fully that the exhibition of earnestness of feeling and honestness of purpose would disarm them of suspicion and opposition to what I said, and my experience has in all cases fully borne me out in that.

1514. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] May I ask what the subject was upon which on that first occasion you addressed those people?—Physiology I called it. I should not like to call that sort of thing a physiological lecture now, but it related to their health—to their habits. I pointed out what harm they did themselves by drinking, and smoking, and living in confined rooms, and not washing themselves, and so on; matters which they knew all about, but not the consequences. I just explained their operation on health as well as I could with the slight materials I had to explain those matters with. I have never lost sight of that method of teaching. I have now a very extensive set of appliances, consisting of a human skeleton, some preparations and physiological diagrams, models of hot water, and ventilating apparatus, domestic baths, apparatus for testing the influence of noxious gases upon health and life, and so on. I got these things together for the purpose of enabling me to demonstrate facts that I have always felt very anxious to make the working classes acquainted with, and I have done so as often as my circumstances would allow; but it is not easy to continue efforts of this sort single-handed. In the very outset I had to relinquish them, because of the

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expense being more than I could bear; and now my operations are very limited, compared with what I would do if I could meet with co-operation, or could afford to act alone.

1515. *Chairman.*] How many lectures did you give in Manchester under the circumstances you have described?—In the first, onset eight or nine; and since I had better apparatus and better means, some hundreds bearing on these subjects.

1516. Colonel *Mure.*] In the same locality?—In the same locality, and other localities of the same kind.

1517. *Chairman.*] Did you find that you obtained favour with the people as you went on?—Yes, and that feeling was not forgotten; for in after years when I became better known, and took a somewhat active part among the people in public matters, I could have gone with the greatest facility into any row, if you will excuse the word, or mob of people; as soon as it became known that I was there, the influence was felt immediately. I should not be afraid to go into the worst and most desperate mob of men that could be congregated in Manchester now; and though I might get seriously hurt in the onset, as I have been occasionally, because I cannot be known by everybody in Manchester, as soon as they ascertained who I was, from those who knew me I should feel a sensible influence exercised in my favour. There have been exceptions to this, but not many.

1518. You found them disposed to appreciate the information you gave them, after they had confidence in you?—Yes.

1519. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] But you think, to obtain that influence, the effort must be entirely voluntary on the part of the person who gives it?—I do not; I think it is impossible for voluntary efforts to meet the demand; I have tried it since, when my circumstances were better, and I found it impossible to pursue the object with anything like a system.

1520. In considering the extremely good result your exertions then produced, has any mode struck you in which the same effect might be obtained in a more sustained manner?—I think institutions should direct their inquiries, and a portion of all their efforts should be applied towards that particular class of people; because I believe if they were to do so, just as much as those classes now affect all the other classes of society within their reach viciously, they would affect them for good, by making known and exciting better feelings.

1521. If any parties were paid by the institutions for making those efforts, would not that have a tendency to interfere with their producing those good effects?—I do not think it would at all; I think what the people would look for, and without which the best efforts, I believe, would be of no value, would be a real earnestness in the party in doing the thing to be done, and that they could believe that the party engaged in the matter, or doing what was going on, really loved them, if I may use the term, and had a sincere desire to serve them. These people are not wise, or they would act differently, but they have strong perceptive powers, and they can feel when a man means well, or has a good object in view.

1522. If they knew he was paid by somebody for the efforts he was making, would not that interfere with the effect to be produced?—I do not think it would.

1523. *Chairman.*] Do you think, with your extensive experience of the feelings and interests of the working classes, it would be easy to introduce among them such Papers as we have been speaking of, with a view to their information and improvement?—Perhaps not easy, but such an object would be quite attainable. They might be made acquainted with the facts, and after a time they would appreciate them; but at present I should suppose it very likely that few would look after such things as these. As men get better educated (and I trust all these influences which are at work in this direction will result by and bye in educating the people,) then they will begin to look for the truth upon matters which they have now quite made up their minds about erroneously, all which matters are very useful to them, but of which they know nothing.

1524. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] From your experience you think there is a great want of education amongst this class of persons?—Not only a great want, there is almost an entire absence of education. If you except a small number of people who can read and write, which I suppose does not constitute education, there is almost an entire absence of education amongst what are called the lower orders of the working classes, except the education of the tap-room and singing saloon.

1525. Does

1525. Does that apply to the rising generation as well as to adults?—The rising generation, I believe, are not educated to anything like the extent they ought to be and would be, were the means for educating the adult population rightly employed. A great deal depends upon this: the effects of the lavish expenditure of money amongst the mechanical classes, upon vicious indulgences, are more extensive than would be supposed, and produce greater influences on their social and economical condition than is generally supposed. It is a fact ascertained, that more money is employed on vicious indulgences by the adult male population of the country than is got back to stock to purchase the comforts and necessaries for the household by the labour of children who ought to be at school, and the labour of women who ought to be employed in their domestic relationships.

1526. Mr. *Headlam.*] By vicious indulgences, I suppose, you chiefly mean drinking and smoking tobacco?—I do.

1527. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] The Reports on Drunkenness, on Education, and as to the state of the Factories, are probably the Parliamentary Papers which would be of use in mechanics' institutes, if those institutes should come into communication more immediately with the lower classes?—Quite so.

1528. Does it appear to you that that first point might be increased if those institutions had from these Parliamentary Papers the means of obtaining accurate information, which might materially assist them in giving profitable lectures to a lower class of persons than those who now belong to those institutions?—I never was able to derive much practical information from these Papers, I must confess, and I have looked over a great many of them. The Report which was given some years ago, upon the influence of intoxicating drinks upon the people, has been largely quoted from; and I believe, if an abstract of that Report could have been judiciously made, and extensively circulated, it would have been of the greatest benefit; but any attempt to wade through such a Report as that, by a person in the condition of a working man, I think is out of the question.

1529. My question had reference more to the use that might be made of those Papers by the lecturer the institution might employ in giving them correct information?—They, of course, would be benefited by it if they had no other means of getting them; but I should say most lecturers who find them useful have access to these things now. I never found any difficulty myself, if I wanted a Parliamentary Report, in getting it.

1530. Then would your answer lead the Committee to infer that you do not attach much importance to the circulation of these Papers?—No; I should attach much importance to the circulation of these Papers, provided the circulation was universal, and they were placed so that the universal people could get at them. If they were to be taken, and put upon the shelves of a mechanics' institute library, and there left, then (applying it to the former question) I say that any efforts to reach the people there would be useless. You cannot do it through them at present; but I have no hesitation in believing that the directors of the various institutions would be glad to aid a Parliamentary Committee, or whoever would have the distribution of these things, in placing the Papers, in the best way in which their means would permit, at the disposal of the people surrounding them.

1531. *Chairman.*] I understand you to say the Reports of Parliamentary Committees are far too cumbersome to be of practical use to the working classes?—I think so, in their form as they leave this house. I have never been able to derive any very extensive information from Parliamentary Reports myself.

1532. Why so?—Because the information afforded by half the witnesses is often of an opposite character to that afforded by the other half; and one thing is so mixed up with another, that there is seldom anything consecutive to be got from it; I have had to go from say page 10 to page 50, and then to page 100, and then to page 300, in order to get at the facts.

1533. Besides a great deal of conflicting evidence?—Yes.

1534. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Have not you found generally that the Reports of Committees consolidated the information, and arranged it in a more useful manner?—It has sometimes been found that the Report of the Committee has been at variance with the facts stated in the evidence.

1535. Mr. *Michell.*] Did you ever read the Juvenile Offenders' Report?—I have read some parts of it.

1536. Did you not find that difficulty with respect to that?—I think I did.

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1537. Did you ever read the Report on sugar making in Ireland?—No, I never did.

1538. Nor on the preparing of flax?—No, I did not; I read the Reports on educational matters, the Reports on Indian matters, and a variety of things of that kind.

1539. Not on drainage, or any of those things?—Yes, I did.

1540. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] With reference to what you said as to the difficulty you had in perusing the Reports, from the desultory manner in which the questions were put and answered; do you imagine some plan might be devised by which the Reports of the Committee should be circulated without the voluminous evidence, which would be satisfactory?—I think if the Reports were to comprehend the matters of fact contained in the evidence, and if they could give a correct idea or summing up of the whole question, that would be really valuable.

1541. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that the Reports generally have marginal references to the questions and answers?—Yes, I have found that, but I have not found those Reports so explicit as I hoped to find them, when I applied myself to them.

1542. Have you any general observations you would wish to make to the Committee?—Perhaps I may be allowed to say this; if a more efficient means of influencing the people were set on foot; if systematic efforts were made to get at them with the information already floating about in the world, by reaching them through the medium of their own industry, a great deal might be done. Whatever relates to a man's handiwork is of great importance to him, and he will be prepared to listen to matters which he sees to have a connexion with his individual interest, when he cannot be prepared in the present state of his information to listen to matters which refer to the interest of somebody else. There is a want of education amongst the class which I am said to represent, and which I would represent if I could, and I hope to be able to do so to some extent as it regards what they ought to want, and what their real feelings are. They very frequently believe that a man engaged in another occupation is not as important as themselves, simply because they are not sufficiently educated to know that they themselves are only parts of a system, and that that system is as equally supported by other men as it is by themselves. If that could be understood they would then have a more visible interest in questions of education and progress, and matters of trade, and manufactures, and so forth; but until that is done I hold it to be of the first importance, that any efforts made in the way of educating the people should go directly to the root of the people, going down amongst them, and if they cannot be induced to come to you, then go to them, and put your information in so simple and concise a form, and so much associated with their everyday life, that they shall not fail to feel its importance, and I think they would feel its importance in that way, and I believe it would not be very long before you would see the result of your labours in a very altered state of things among the working classes. We generally hear it said, that they are fond of light literature; this is very natural, because that light literature treats of those passions and feelings which are the romance of life, and which all men have, especially in youth, and they have chords in their bosoms which vibrate to those things. They have also those better chords, those higher thoughts and nobler aspirations; and though they are smouldering now they may easily be awakened into an active flame, and they could be more so if men had only a greater faith in the power of truth. A man throws forth his degrading dogmas to the world in towns and cities, and those dogmas are received because in connexion with pernicious statements he mixes up a certain amount of truth, what the people know to be truth; they say, "Well, we know this is truth, that is all right, lad;" and that it is which induces them to believe everything else the man says, because they know that some part of what he is talking about is right. I believe the system we ought to follow is, first teach people thoroughly what they know partially; make them understand the things that are about them; and then lead them up to other and better things of an elevating character. I think that is the only way to make them better men. I can tell you it was through my own efforts in that way, assisted by a few individuals, that I have the honour to appear before you to-day. It was in the early part of life, and then my notions of manliness consisted in knocking anybody down who did not please me; and when I got a little higher up in the world, I thought the first thing I should

do

do was to learn to box a little better than I could in my then condition, and I did some of those foolish things, which people are constantly doing, because they know no better, and the result of which is always to do themselves considerable injury. It was at that time that a person asked me if I wished to hear a lecture; he said I was capable of better things than driving, as I was at that time, a cart and horse. I had had a character for attention to my duties in life; and never mixing, as I never could do (my self-respect would not suffer me to do that) with the people in their amusements and diversions in public-houses, fights, and that sort of thing; I could not do that; though I had no objection to fight a little on my own account, I could not do it on system. That man told me he believed I was capable of better things, and asked me to go and hear a lecture on astronomy at our Mechanics' Institution; I did so, and soon found that that was just the thing which met what little ambitious aim I had. I had made up my mind that I would not always be what I was; I had looked with a sort of longing eye on men who were making their way in the world, and I thought I should like to mix among them, and become one of them some day. I made up my mind I would do it, how or when I could not tell; but no sooner had I heard that admirable lecture delivered by a master mind (Doctor Lardner was the lecturer), than I at once felt a sort of new inspiration, a new life; it was evident to me that that was the thing I should aim at, though I knew no more of what the man was talking about than this piece of paper. Of course I had seen the sun (and a good deal earlier than many people), and of course I knew there were such things as stars, and so forth, and that was all; but it appeared to me to be so noble a pursuit that I made up my mind to try whether I could do something of a kindred character. Then the light began to dawn upon me. I could not at all tell you or describe my feelings as to how it was that I went on from step to step, but these things became more delightful to me than anything I had ever seen or known. All the notions I had had of manliness or amusement, and so forth, vanished at once from my mind as being very foolish and ridiculous affairs; and I believe there are hundreds and thousands, and I hope millions, whose appreciation of good things would be quite as strong as my own, if they were put before them in a kindly spirit, though they may not have had their self-esteem so much acted upon in early life, and have not formed resolutions as strong as my own, but still they might be made more like what they ought to be. If they saw there was a truthful spirit trying to lead them, I think they would manifest a power of resolution which no other influence in the world probably would call forth.

1543. Do you attribute your advancement in life to your attending the mechanics' institute?—I do; I believe if I had never had my mind directed to the mechanics' institute I should not have been without education; but I am quite unable to attribute to anything else that which gave my mind the impetus; but from my being taken to the Manchester Mechanics' Institute, I do not know how long I should have remained a carter, but probably much longer than I did; but as soon as my mind began to develop itself, and my energies became better directed, I was distinguished from those around me, and selected as fit for something else, and something else I became. I have continued in the course I then began from that time to this.

1544. Colonel *Mure.*] Are there any others in Manchester, of your own class, who have been in the same way as yourself induced to direct their efforts to the improvement of the working classes in the modes you have yourself described?—I am not acquainted with any who have taken a precisely similar course; most of those I have known push themselves on in the world have, unfortunately for themselves, become attached to some political movement, which has been, perhaps, the reason. I do not mean to say anything in depreciation of political movements, the making of efforts to bring about changes in those things; but I may say, I believe there are many men who have sprung up into some importance, exhibiting considerable powers of mind in connexion with political movements, who have died out and become of no value to the world, or the class they came from, but who, if they could have directed their attention to some more practical efforts than those, they would have far outstripped my own self in the exhibition of talent, and in value to the world.

1545. I did not speak so much with regard to their raising themselves from a comparatively low condition to a better condition, both with regard to condition in life, and education and knowledge, but I spoke with regard to other persons

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in your own precise condition of life, connected with mechanics' institutes, who have exerted themselves the same way to direct the minds of the lower orders to practical knowledge, by the means you have followed, or similar means?—I understood the question to be exactly that, but I said what I did because I was not very anxious to make it appear that I was the only one who had the capacity to make himself useful to his class.

1546. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Was that because they had in general a turn more to political matters and pursuits?—Yes.

1547. Colonel *Mure.*] In fact you do not know in Manchester, within your own knowledge, any other persons who have endeavoured to instruct the working classes in that way?—Not in that way.

1548. Do you not think that other persons might by some means or other be instigated, in connexion with these institutes, to adopt those means and to carry them into effect in the same manner, and with similar success?—In the worldly acceptation of the term mine has not been a successful career; I have worked very hard, and done all I could to teach truths I believe to be important, and it has been successful so far as making myself I hope more intelligent, and making me feel more grateful for having the power to do something in the way of good; but as a money matter—and people very seldom speak of success without referring to that—I can hold out to others no inducement at present to take similar steps with myself.

1549. I mean success in your efforts to make people wiser and better, and if the people were made wiser and better, those efforts would be attended with success, though neither they nor you have been made richer?—I believe there are gentlemen who are engaged in the conduct of mechanics' institutes who have improved their position in life, but I do not know any whose position in life is like mine. I gave you, so far as I can remember, a sketch of the efforts I made in the first onset, with reference to people lower down in the world. I could also give you a long succession of efforts of my own class upon the temperance question, and other questions of a similar nature, where the result has been a constantly increasing number of men associating themselves. About 20 years ago a question arose and was talked about, as to what men could do with reference to the use of intoxicating drinks, and benevolent individuals advised working men not to take any spirituous liquors, but simply to content themselves with a certain beverage, which became a question for consideration with myself; because, though I never had been associated in any of these things in the way of drinking, and so on, I still felt an interest in working out the principle, and I was the first man in Manchester to propose a pledge of total abstinence from intoxicating drinks. There had been a long discussion about the matter; I did not take part in the discussion, because I could not talk then as fast as I talk now; however, I contented myself with simply drawing up a pledge, which was signed by an Irish pedlar and a ropemaker, and myself. Now we have 30,000 members in Manchester, and among those 30,000 are reading-rooms and improvement societies, established independent of mechanics' institutes, in which they have from 150 to 200 volumes of books, and in which they form classes to teach each other to read and write; these are never taken any notice of in any of the reports of the statistics of the district, and I have never heard of any of the institutes doing anything to lend them any assistance.

1550. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] You would say that vice and intemperance is one main cause of deterioration among the working classes?—I believe it to be almost the sole cause. I have every reason to believe that 83 per cent. of detected crime, and 75 per cent. of pauperisms, is traceable in some way or other to intoxicating drinks.

1551. Does your own experience enable you to inform us whether the vice of intemperance is diminishing to any extent among that class of society?—I am sorry to say it does not diminish among the people extensively, because, while there are constant accessions to the temperance body, yet taking into account the increase of population, and so on, I do not believe there is such a diminution in the vice of intemperance as to make any very perceptible change in the state of things.

1552. Has it occurred to you that the vice of intemperance has been very much fostered and encouraged by the multiplicity of places in which intoxicating liquors are sold?—I have no hesitation at all in saying it has been. Prior to the passing of the first Act which authorised the drinking of beer not on the premises,

premises, and the Act not long after which authorised the drinking of beer on the premises, I know neighbourhoods which were quiet and orderly then; when there were drunken men to be met with, it is true, but then they came from a distance, and were only to be met with from the public-houses elsewhere; these neighbourhoods have been transformed into perfect scenes of recklessness by the introduction of those beer shops. Mr. *F. Warren.* 10 March 1853.

1553. By the multiplicity of the opportunities of intoxication?—Yes; many people who would not go to the other end of the street to a public-house are induced to go into one close by to take a glass or two, and so they get into conversation, and the result is intoxication.

[Adjourned to Monday next, at half-past Twelve.

Lunæ, 14° *die Martii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tufnell.	Mr. Byng.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Michell.	Mr. Headlam.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY TUFNELL, IN THE CHAIR.

Dr. *Lyon Playfair*, called in; and Examined.

1554. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE that a department has lately been established, called the Department of Science and Art?—It has. Dr. *L. Playfair.* 14 March 1853.

1555. With which you are connected under the Board of Trade?—I am Secretary for Science to that department.

1556. Will you state what is the particular object of that department?—The object of the department is to bring into more efficient action the metropolitan schools already supported by Parliamentary grant, and to extend their benefits to the provinces, and especially to communicate a desire to the provinces to include systematic scientific instruction, and instruction in the arts, into the institutions already established, or which may hereafter be established.

1557. To what provincial institutions do you particularly refer?—To any provincial institutions that will enter into a systematic course of technical instruction, and instructions as applied to the arts and manufactures.

1558. Such as mechanics' institutes, literary societies, and philosophical institutions?—Yes, I think mechanics' institutes may be used for the purpose of imparting scientific instruction to artisans, whilst the others may be used as a means of communicating scientific instruction to the higher classes.

1559. That department, I believe, is not yet in operation; it is only commencing its labours?—It can scarcely be said, as yet, to be in operation. The formal letters of appointment have not yet passed, although I have been verbally authorised by the Treasury to act.

1560. Where are its head quarters?—At Marlborough House; it is in connexion with the Board of Trade, and under the President of the Board of Trade.

1561. What schools in London, which receive aid from the Government, do you refer to; the Schools of Design?—Both the central School of Design, which was formerly in Somerset House, and the affiliated schools in connexion with it in London and throughout the provinces. Also the Metropolitan School of Science in Jermyn-street, which has now the name of the Government School of Mines and Science applied to the Arts. Also the Royal Dublin Society, in Dublin; and the School of Irish Industry, in Dublin. They all receive Parliamentary grants at present, to the amount of about 39,000*l.*

1562. Are there any institutions in Scotland, which receive Parliamentary grants, with which you are in connexion?—None at present; there is a committee

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mittee established in Edinburgh, in order to induce the Government to establish a school of a similar character in Edinburgh, but none yet exists.

1563. Then your connexion with this department will gradually bring you into intercourse with these institutions throughout the country?—I hope very extensively; in fact, the great object of the institution is to get that communication between the centre and the provinces, which is so much to be desired for the extension of scientific knowledge.

1564. Do you propose in the first instance, then, to send questions round to the different societies, so as to enable them to know what is the object of your department?—I can scarcely say what will be the nature of the work at first, as it has to grow, but already I am in correspondence with a good many of the provincial institutions upon this subject.

1565. Have you turned your attention already to the subject under the investigation of this Committee; I mean whether, in a public point of view, it would be useful to distribute a selection of Parliamentary Papers to different institutions that may require them?—I have done so to some extent, but not expecting to give evidence upon that point I have not entered into it very fully; but I may mention that, having been engaged on various Government and Royal Commissions, I found it extremely inconvenient that we had no opportunity of communicating quickly with institutions throughout the country, for the purpose of the rapidly instructing the public in the information which we obtained on those Commissions. I would instance, for example, the Royal Commission for examining into the state of large towns and populous districts, in which we acquired a great deal of valuable information on the sanitary condition of the kingdom; and it would have been of the utmost importance to us to have had an institution in each town which could have answered as a centre for communicating the information which we derived in the districts. Instead of the sanitary agitation requiring two or three years before the public attention could be drawn to the subject, had we had such means, we could have made the public thoroughly acquainted with our investigations in probably about one year; but as it was, it required a long time before we could impress the public with the importance of the question.

1566. Do you think the members of these institutions would be prepared to appreciate such information as they would receive from the Parliamentary Papers?—To the greatest extent; and I am quite sure it would raise the tone of many of the institutions, and cause the formation of a higher class of readers than they are accustomed to have at present. Much important information is often published in the Parliamentary Papers on the social condition of the population, on the state of emigration and education questions, which it would be of the utmost importance to have distributed to the provincial towns.

1567. Mr. *Brotherton.*] And if the Reports and Statistical Papers were sent to the different societies, immediately on their publication, by post, would it not add to their value very much, and give the various societies a greater interest in receiving and circulating the information contained in them?—Very much so indeed; in fact, the effect of such papers is often lost by their becoming antiquated before the country districts know of them at all; and if they went quickly into those districts, they would attract attention and be of much use. I may mention, that it has occurred to me, that as the duty of the new department will bring it into constant intercourse with provincial institutions, by which it will become aware of their wants, I have thought that we might be useful in distributing the Parliamentary Papers, or aiding in their distribution, to the provinces, and thus perhaps lessening the labour of the selection. The department being managed by officers responsible to Parliament, and who are already paid salaries, it would not require any additional cost for such a distribution; therefore, there would be a general superintendence, selection, and distribution, and the whole cost would be merely clerks' cost, and the actual sending away of the Papers to the different institutions.

1568. Are you of opinion that it would be able to assist a Committee, particularly in the selection of such Papers as would be useful to the different institutions?—I think so; and also in the circumstance that we could conduct the correspondence, if the distribution were confided to us, more readily than a Committee could do. There would be a large amount of correspondence with institutions requiring particular reports and papers, which it would be very important should be attended to, and I do not see how it could receive proper attention

attention and an intelligent consideration, unless by some particular individuals employed especially for that purpose.

1569. Are you aware of what is the number of institutions, taking mechanics' institutes and literary and philosophical institutions, in the United Kingdom?—Not at present; I know there is a very large number.

1570. Supposing it should be considered advisable to distribute the Parliamentary Papers, do you think it might be expedient at first to limit the number and extent of the Papers very considerably, and also to select the number of institutes to which they were sent?—I think it would be a matter of good policy to do so, in order to make the institutions value the gift. I think if you scatter them too profusely over the country, the institutions would not value them so much as if they asked for them, and as if they received them as a favour, rather than as a right. I think, too, as a question of good policy, that it would be better to do it gradually than too quickly.

1571. Mr. *Brotherton.*] But you would consider it essential to distribute these Papers to free libraries wheresoever they were established in large towns?—Yes; I think the major institutions throughout the country should have the Papers. A few of the major institutions, such as the Liverpool and Manchester Mechanics' Institutes, and also the Leeds and other Mechanics' Institutes, should have the whole of the Papers; and I think it would be extremely important that they should have them as soon as published.

1572. Mr. *Headlam.*] The whole set complete?—Yes.

1573. Mr. *Brotherton.*] But the Papers would be accessible to the public if they were placed in free libraries, whereas, with regard to mechanics' institutes, I suppose they would be confined to the members?—Yes, as a general rule.

1574. *Chairman.*] Suppose in the same town there is a free library, and also a mechanics' institute and an athenæum; would you select the free library in preference to the other institutions?—Yes, a free library that is open to the public ought to have the preference.

1575. Are you aware that the average number of volumes published by Parliament during the year is 60?—I know it to be considerable.

1576. Should you think there are any institutions that could accommodate so large an annual amount of books?—Certainly; the major institutions have very large and commodious buildings, in which they would have no difficulty in accommodating that number: some of the smaller institutions, I suppose, could not do it at all. Some of the larger institutions in the kingdom have libraries almost worthy of being called national libraries.

1577. What institutions do you allude to in particular?—Such as the London Institution in Finsbury Circus, which has a library of that kind, including many rare and valuable books.

1578. Are you aware that the Reports of some of the Public Departments are already distributed amongst different institutions which are in union with the Society of Arts?—Yes, I am aware of it, and it has been found of very great benefit.

1579. They have been read with interest by the members of the institutions to which they have been sent?—They have been read with great interest, as we have seen from the correspondence of the Society of Arts in connexion with those which have been sent. I may mention as an example of the eagerness with which they receive such information, that I have lately published a lecture on industrial instruction on the Continent, and the applications for that have been so numerous from the institutions and the public, that it has already cost in mere postage something like 30 *l.* or 40 *l.* in distributing it; and that lecture has raised the question upon which the Society of Arts are now in correspondence with the Treasury, as to whether Papers not published by Parliament, but published at the cost of Her Majesty's Government, as that lecture was, should not be distributed in the same way freely through the post.

1580. Is it within your experience, that a great deal of ignorance often prevails amongst the members of these institutions, with regard to the particular tendency of subjects which come under the consideration of Parliament?—Very often lamentable ignorance prevails; I would instance one or two points to show that, and which would have been removed had the information which existed been communicated freely throughout the provinces. When I was a commissioner upon the sanitary condition of the kingdom, one subject which came much under our attention was the supplying of water on the constant system of supply,

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and not on the intermittent. Long after our evidence had been published on the county of Lancashire, it was stated by the manager of a large waterworks company to be quite impossible, whilst actually, within a few miles of that very town, the constant system had existed for years. Now, if it had been known that in the evidence published by Parliament a full account was given of those works within a few miles of this town, but which those most interested in the result were utterly ignorant of, they could not have denied its possibility.

1581. Can you state any other case of the same kind?—Yes, I can state another case; that in taking the cost of sewerage in various towns, I found that the want of circulation of such information led to the most extraordinary differences in the size of main sewers, and in private drains even in neighbouring towns, such as Manchester, and Liverpool, and Preston; they were entirely different; and the circulation of that knowledge diffused generally throughout the kingdom caused an alteration and re-arrangement of the system of sewerage throughout the district.

1582. Are you of opinion that in making a selection of the Papers it would be advisable also to consider what circumstances are particularly interesting in particular localities, and not to make a selection generally, but to adapt it to each locality; for instance, not to give the same Papers to Manchester, which you would to Liverpool or Hull?—I quite understand the question; and it was on that account that I thought our department might be very useful, from knowing the localities, and also that we might be useful in aiding and keeping up a constant communication; it would be a public department aiding in the diffusion of scientific knowledge by this and by other means, and by keeping up a constant communication between each institution and the centre.

1583. Mr. *Headlam.*] You are chiefly connected, I suppose, with schools of design and schools of a scientific description?—Chiefly with schools of a scientific description; the schools of design are under my colleague, Mr. Cole.

1584. Schools of science?—Yes.

1585. Are there any number of schools of science established?—There are only a few in existence in this country; one in actual operation, the one in Jermyn-street, one in Edinburgh, one in Glasgow, and one in an incipient state in Newcastle, and a few others in process of formation.

1586. With respect to mechanics' institutes, your connexion with them, at present, is not very great?—We have scarcely commenced action yet; in fact I have only received notice of my appointment within a week.

1587. With respect to mechanics' institutes it would be perfectly voluntary, I presume, what degree of connexion they establish between their respective bodies and the central society in London?—Entirely voluntary with respect to all institutions; it will act chiefly as a department for advice and reference, and not as one of control.

1588. Could you give us any idea what would be the best mode of making the selection of these Parliamentary Papers; for instance, would it be a good thing that one selection should be made, say by an officer of this House, containing the most interesting matters, which selection should be indexed separately, and be capable of being taken in by private individuals or public institutions; would that be a good plan, on the one hand, or, on the other, would it be a better plan that, without any general selection from the Parliamentary Papers, such particular Papers should be sent by your department to the different localities as would be interesting to the particular societies to which you send them?—The public want in that respect would soon be manifested; when once you have facilities for the distribution of these Papers, the institutions would soon come and ask to have them; and the limitation of space to which these institutions are subject would compel them only to ask for those which were to them of the most interest, and the greatest importance.

1589. Then, perhaps, the best course in the first instance would be to leave it to the societies themselves to say what particular Papers would be useful and interesting to them?—I think that would be practically leaving it to the officer or department to select. You would find these societies would not care for all the Papers, and that they would be quite willing to receive a portion if there were any officer or department appointed to give them that portion.

1590. I understand the establishments to which you think the Parliamentary Papers would be chiefly valuable are the schools of design in connexion with your department?—The schools of design are very few. I do not think, except

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in connexion with art, that they would be of very great value to schools of design.

1591. The institutions would be chiefly scientific institutions?—Yes, and literary and philosophical institutions, as well as to mechanics' institutions.

1592. With respect to literary and philosophical institutions, they are maintained usually by subscription?—Yes.

1593. And the class of persons who belong to them, I suppose, generally speaking, are of a higher order than in mechanics' institutes?—They are generally of a higher order than in mechanics' institutes, but mechanics' institutes have had a great infusion of classes above artisans of late years.

1594. Do you think if Parliamentary Papers were sent immediately to the literary and philosophical societies, there should be any stipulation as to their being made accessible to a larger class than the society itself?—I think there would be some difficulty in their agreeing to any stipulation with regard to that. As there would be no intention of throwing them broadcast over the country, and only where they were of considerable use, it would be a good return to the country for the expenditure if there were a place where the information could be had; I have always found the literary and philosophic institutions very liberal in giving access to documents whenever information was desired.

1595. Would it not be of great value, in connexion with any collection of Parliamentary Papers, that there should be a complete index kept in every society of the particular Papers which that society possesses?—It would be very important.

1596. That would be one reason, probably, why a complete set of the Papers in a large town would be of additional value?—Yes, in a large town, I consider a complete set would be of much importance; and for the purpose of reference they might always be had access to either in a free library, a library open to the public, or where the public, by a little courtesy on the part of the secretary, might obtain access to the Papers for the purpose of reference.

1597. With respect to particular individual Reports sent down from time to time, and not as part of a general collection, they would probably be of an ephemeral character, and not of much value for a permanent collection?—That would depend upon the subjects; there are many subjects of interest reported to Parliament which are of a permanent description, and those Papers become most valuable records.

1598. *Chairman.*] Have you any observations to make as to the mode in which Parliamentary Papers are now sold; do you think there is any lack of advertisements or inducements to people in the country to purchase them?—I think there are practical difficulties, from which the public find they do not get them so easily as other works, which often deter men from getting them when they otherwise would; and I think there is a strong repugnance to their present form with many of the public. The public have a repugnance to the folio form, which does not suit common libraries, and generally is not adapted to their shelves, and consequently there is an indisposition to receive them in libraries.

1599. Do you not think, with respect to a great many of the Parliamentary Papers, that making it worth the while of the booksellers to have them in their shops would induce many persons to purchase them?—More persons would purchase them if their form were altered. An increased demand arose when the Reports of the Poor Law Board and the Reports of the Board of Health were altered from the folio to the octavo form. It had become impossible for persons to find room for them in their libraries when in folio; and, although they contained matter of great interest, they were not much purchased; but since they have been printed in octavo the sale has been considerable.

1600. Mr. *Michell.*] In small districts, or districts in which there are small towns, do you know anything of the principle of itinerant libraries, or have you formed any opinion whether that would be available or not?—It is quite practicable in those districts which have several institutions under one system of management, which has now become very popular, such as the Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes. You might quite well establish itinerant libraries in connexion with such institutions.

1601. Where are the Schools of Mines to be formed in different parts of the country?—Wherever the efforts of the inhabitants may form them. They are not to be established by Government, but by voluntary local efforts.

1602. And the money is to be provided by the inhabitants?—Yes, the money for their establishment. Government affords assistance in keeping them up.

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1603. And what would be the advantages of those schools?—The advantages of those schools would be chiefly the local advantages to the district, but they would also participate in the advantages of the central school, which is chiefly supported by a Parliamentary grant, and which would aid them in carrying their objects into effect.

1604. Would you advise one room to be expressly appropriated for these Papers?—I think institutions could scarcely promise this, on account of the limited space which they usually have.

1605. To be open to the public on certain days?—There are some of those open daily; I think you might make such a condition with the institutions; I do not know their circumstances sufficiently to know whether they would be enabled to make such a stipulation.

1606. *Chairman.*] Suppose it should be considered expedient at first to limit the number of institutions to which these Papers should be sent, would you suggest to the Committee any principle which should be laid down with regard to the selection of the institutions?—I could not do so just now, because I think, for the successful working out of this project, it must arise out of the local wants of the districts expressed by the institutions themselves, and the desire they manifest for these Papers; much discretion must be left to the intelligence of the officers who may be intrusted to select and distribute them. It would be difficult before the public want is much manifested to lay down a general principle; and as returns would be laid before Parliament every year, the results would be shown, viz., what was the nature of the district, the number, character, and tone of the subjects selected, so that any excess would soon be corrected by Parliament itself in examining those returns.

1607. Are you of opinion, as this is in the nature of an experiment, that it should begin on a limited scale at first, so as not to glut the public?—Certainly. The question of cost is not a great one; because if 12*l.* represent the annual cost to the public of all the Parliamentary Papers published in the year, it certainly is not probable that 300 institutes would require half that sum, and, therefore, the expense to the public, compared with the good, would be insignificant.

1608. Mr. *Headlam.*] Is not the annual cost of the Parliamentary Papers about 18.*l*?—I believe 12*l.* is the annual subscription to the public, taking one year with another. You may contract for all the Parliamentary Papers for 12*l.* a year; at least my impression is so.

1609. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that the mode of inquiry into different subjects by Parliamentary Committees, viz., by way of question and answer, is a mode that would be very attractive? Supposing it to be a question of interest, do you think it would be more attractive than a mere treatise?—To a certain class of the members of these institutions it would be more easily comprehensible, but it is rather an important question, which I should not like to answer without thinking of it more. To a certain class of minds, question and answer is a more easy form of imparting knowledge, as we find by the sale of scientific catechisms, and other information communicated in that way, but to another class of minds it is rather repugnant.

1610. Is not the dramatic form, which this sort of proceeding in dialogue resembles, an attractive form to readers in general?—To artisans, and many members of mechanics' institutes, I have no doubt it would be so.

1611. Particularly the class to which I referred?—Yes.

1612. Are there any observations with which you would favour the Committee upon the question before it?—I would only say that should our new department be of any use with reference to this object, we should be delighted to use our exertions to advance it.

1613. And generally I may conclude that you are favourable to the object which this Committee has in view?—Entirely so; I consider the distribution of intelligence by means of the Parliamentary Papers to be a highly beneficial object.

1614. That it would be useful, both in the way of correcting error, and in diffusing valuable information among the public, especially the labouring classes?—Yes; I think it is an object of the highest importance.

Mr. *Isaiah Can Radford*, called in; and Examined.

1615. *Chairman.*] ARE you Secretary to the Mechanics' Institute at Devonport?—I am one of the honorary secretaries. Mr. *I. C. Radford.* 14 March 1853.

1616. Can you inform the Committee how many literary and scientific institutions there are in Devon and Cornwall?—We have received returns from 29 institutions in Devon; there are probably about 10 other societies, including the Plymouth Institution, which takes a higher class of persons generally, and a few proprietary public libraries. Some of these contain a very large number of volumes, but they are not included in what we should call the more popular institutions.

1617. Can you give the Committee a list of those institutions, and the number of members in each?—Yes; I hold in my hand an abstract of returns received from the various literary and scientific institutions in Devon, containing the names of the places, the names of the institutions, when founded, the names of the secretaries, the town or district population, the number of members, prosperous or otherwise, stationary, increase or decrease, cause of decrease, cause of increase, annual subscription, the number of books, the amount of debt, the number of lectures yearly, concerts and their results, and whether they are desirous or otherwise of obtaining Parliamentary Papers. I have also a similar abstract of returns received from the various literary and scientific institutions in Cornwall. (*The same were delivered in.*) *Vide* Appendix.

1618. Have you reason to believe that these are the whole of the institutions established up to the present time?—Nearly so, these returns were handed to us by the secretary or some other officer of each institution, in reply to certain questions which we sent to them a short time since.

1619. Do you consider that these institutions in the west of England are generally in a flourishing condition?—In Devon, 20 report themselves as prosperous, 5 as not prosperous, and 5 have either been recently formed, or offer no opinion. From Cornwall there are returns from 25 institutions, whereas Cornwall altogether contains about 30; and of the 25 who have made returns, 19 state themselves to be in a prosperous condition, and 6 otherwise.

1620. The institution with which you are particularly connected, how many members has that?—One thousand two hundred and seventy-eight; it is the largest institution in the west of England.

1621. Have you a building of your own?—Not of our own; the plan we adopted was to induce persons to erect the building, we renting it, and paying five per cent. rent, appropriating such an amount every year as we can afford for the purchase of the building, as we retain under the deed the right to purchase shares whenever we have the means of doing so.

1622. Have you a library there?—We have a library containing about 3,400 volumes; I hold in my hand the catalogue, which contains 3,276; upwards of 100 have been added since.

1623. Were those purchased chiefly out of the funds of the institution?—The greater portion of them have been purchased from the funds of the institution, but some of them, such as the theological works, have been presented. The Archbishop of Canterbury, a short time ago, sent us down the whole of his works, the Archbishop of Dublin and several other parties have done the same. Professor Whewell sent us some of his publications. Several individuals have purchased books and presented them to us.

1624. Is your library open during any part of the night, as well as the day?—It is open every evening except Sundays, from six o'clock till ten, and during the day from twelve o'clock to two.

1625. Do you find it is much frequented in the evening?—Very much; a large number of persons are constantly in it, but a very large number of books are taken out and read by members at home. The circulation of books during the past year has amounted to 16,679 volumes.

1626. What is the description of books most in demand now for circulation?—I have them all taken out in a paper I hold in my hand. During the past year there have been circulated 59 mathematical works, 225 natural philosophy, 72 chemistry, 233 sciences and the arts, 411 natural history, 225 moral and political philosophy, 689 geography and topography, 3,189 history and biography, 8,296 novels, tales, &c., 535 poetry, 1,098 periodicals, 12 dictionaries

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and cyclopædias, 1,635 miscellaneous works. That is the circulation for the past year.

1627. That is, books on those subjects have gone out those numbers of times?—Yes, independent of the books read in the library.

1628. Have you also a classified catalogue of the whole of the books in the library?—I have a return of the classes of books in the library: there are 41 mathematical works, 84 natural philosophy, 26 chemistry, 175 sciences and the arts, 153 natural history, 140 moral and political philosophy, 161 geography and topography, 631 history and biography, 504 novels, tales, &c., 171 poetry, 546 periodical literature, 110 dictionaries and cyclopædias, 534 miscellaneous, including historical works, Parliamentary documents, &c.

1629. Mr. *Michell.*] What do they do with their books at the Plymouth Institution, after they have read them; do they keep them or sell them?—The library at the Plymouth institution is not a large one. Sometime ago it was flourishing, but they lost several of their more active members; and of late years they have not acted so energetically as they did at first. There has recently been a fusion of two institutions there, the original Plymouth Institution and the Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society, and it is to be hoped they will go on with fresh energy.

1630. Although they have a small number of books, do they circulate the books in the Plymouth Institution?—I am not certain; I believe they do.

1631. *Chairman.*] Do you believe that many of these institutions in Devon and Cornwall have expressed a desire to obtain the Parliamentary Papers, such as Returns which are presented to Parliament, and the Reports of Committees?—Yes, in Devon 28 institutions out of 29 have expressed themselves desirous of obtaining the Parliamentary Papers; the one which has not expressed itself so desirous contains no library, so that they have no means of accommodating them.

1632. All the institutions, except the one which does not possess a library, have expressed a desire to obtain the Papers?—Yes. In Cornwall all the institutions have expressed a desire to obtain these Papers, with the exception of a small institution at Lostwithiel, which possesses only 30 members.

1633. In your opinion, what species of Parliamentary returns and documents would be most appreciated by these institutions?—Reports of Committees, and Returns containing statistical information which may be brought to bear on education, the sanitary condition of the people, and matters of that kind.

1634. Did you not distribute a variety of questions among these institutions?—Yes.

1635. And from their answers, you are able of yourself to give an opinion that there is a very strong desire manifested by these institutions?—Yes, from that and the constant intercourse as one of the secretaries of the largest institution in the West of England with the various societies, by correspondence or by visits, for they frequently come to us from different parts of the country to arrange a series of lectures, &c.

1636. Would you recommend that the distribution of these Papers should be confined to institutions having a certain number of members?—No; there may be some institutions with only a small number of members where these Papers would do as much if not more good than amongst the larger institutions. I know some institutions in which, though there is a small number of members, yet that small number is perhaps more influential upon the district, and perhaps upon the county, than are some of the larger institutions, though they possess so many more members.

1637. But would these small institutions have sufficient room to accommodate the number of books which would accumulate every year?—I think it would be well to make the institutions apply at the commencement of every Session for these documents; if they have no room to accommodate them, they are not likely to apply. I think also you might insist that upon their making such an application they should give you certain returns as to the number of members, whether they are in debt, and so on. Such information would be very valuable, and could thus be obtained without difficulty or expense to any individual institution; and if Parliament were to insist upon it, I think it would be a check upon institutions applying without having accommodation for the Papers they would receive, and no set of Papers would be wasted.

1638. Can you state what is the class to which the members of these institutions

tions belong; are they the labouring or artisan class, or are they shopkeepers?—They vary considerably in different localities. In some localities they are confined almost altogether to shopkeepers, small tradesmen, and some of the working classes; in other localities they embrace all classes. In the Devonport Mechanics' Institute we have members of all grades of society, and such is the case at Plymouth, Exeter, and some of the other large towns. Sometimes there is a strong class feeling in many of the towns which prevents the various grades of society from associating together.

1639. Do you think the form in which the Parliamentary Papers are published at present is suitable for their distribution?—They would be very much more acceptable in the octavo form; and if they could be received bound they would be still more so. I apprehend the cost would be small.

1640. Mr. *Michell.*] In places where the towns are all so small as they are in Cornwall, and some parts of Devon, do you think itinerant societies would answer; for instance, take one at Penzance, another at Truro, and another at Launceston, so as to itinerate round to Tregoney, Camelford, Saltash, and so on?—I think there would be found some very considerable difficulty in carrying out such an idea; it would be very desirable if it could be done, for even in Devonport, where we get certain Parliamentary Papers, such, for instance, as the Reports of the Board of Health, a short time since I think there were no less than six applications from different members at the same time for a portion of these documents.

1641. You know that there is such a society made to itinerate in Cumberland, and that it answers very well?—Yes, I have heard of it; but whilst with regard to books that might be read one day, or the next day, or some other time, it might answer, I think the case would be different with Parliamentary Papers; those being generally wanted soon after they are published, or at a time when the public mind is strongly excited on a particular question of the day, such as emigration, for example, and in that case I think it very likely that the same Paper would be required at Penzance, Bodmin, and other places at the same time.

1642. Would it not be desirable, where there are several small towns, and no large towns, that mechanics' institutes, or whatever they are called, should be able to get these Papers for the use of the institution on application?—Decidedly.

1643. *Chairman.*] In what way would you propose that these Papers should be distributed?—I sent a suggestion to the secretary of the Society of Arts a short time ago, that a list should be published in that journal of all the Papers printed by Parliament; but if Parliament itself would publish a list once a month, or something of that sort, of all the Papers laid before it, the institutions might then be left to choose for themselves; and instead of applying for that which would be comparatively useless to them, but which might be of very considerable importance in other parts of the country, I think the institutions would only apply for those which would be most beneficial.

1644. Are you aware that the Society of Arts, in their journal, which is published every week, do give now a list of all the Parliamentary Papers which have been issued during the preceding week?—All Parliamentary Returns and Reports; but there are some other matters which it would be desirable to obtain information about, such as Acts of Parliament. Perhaps it would not be right to confine the publication altogether to the journal of the Society of Arts: it is one means of getting the information where the institution is in connexion with the Society of Arts, but it would be an awkward sort of thing to force institutions into connexion with it, or into the purchase of its journal, in order to obtain the information; although in my own opinion the union of all these institutions with the Society of Arts is exceedingly desirable.

1645. Mr. *Headlam.*] If they got the Papers for nothing, do you not think they would be inclined to apply for every Paper which came out?—I think you would find that the applications would be confined to Papers which they would think beneficial; otherwise they would have a mass of Papers which would not be of use to them.

1646. Mr. *Michell.*] I think you state there is one institution which says they do not wish to have such Papers?—Yes, in answer to the question, "Desirous or otherwise of obtaining Parliamentary Papers?" one says "No," another says

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they have no means of accommodation; if they could accommodate the Papers it would be desirable to obtain them.

1647. In the list of the Society of Arts, do the prices appear of the different Parliamentary Papers which are brought out?—No.

1648. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that there is every year published a list of all the Parliamentary Papers printed in the course of the year, with an alphabetical index, and the prices?—No, I was not aware of it before. Some time ago, the question of education in connexion with crime sprung up in our institution; and as there was a strong feeling in the neighbourhood upon it, it was proposed that the question should be investigated; and with the view of getting information to enable us to investigate it satisfactorily to ourselves. Sir George Grey, when he was Secretary of State for the Home Department, was written to, and asked whether any papers existed for public distribution under such circumstances; and the reply was, that copies of such documents might be purchased at the office for the sale of Parliamentary Papers. A gentleman in London was then asked to go to the office. At the office they did not exactly know what Papers we wanted; there were returns moved for by two or three Members, but when we first heard of them, we could not tell when they were moved for, or when they were made, and it was recommended that we should get down the published catalogue. That was ordered. The catalogue cost 9*s.* in addition to the postage, and when it came down it extended from 1832 to 1844, while the returns we wanted were in 1845, 1846, and 1847; showing the inconvenience which parties in the country are subjected to when they have not the means, as persons in London have, of going to the office at once, and saving much expense and much delay.

1649. At present, from the ignorance of parties in the country with regard to the Papers which are published, they are unable to obtain the information even if they wish it and can pay for it?—I think so.

1650. If that catalogue you spoke of were published every year, and were to comprise the whole of the Parliamentary Papers which are printed, do you think the institutions would be able from that to select such Papers as would be useful to them?—Yes; but if it could be published more frequently it would be very desirable, because many Papers a year old would be comparatively useless.

1651. Do you think that supposing these Papers were distributed, the secretary or some officer of the institution should be made responsible for the preservation of the Papers?—I think not; I think if you look at the care which is ordinarily given to books in these institutions, you will have a sufficient guarantee that all possible care will be taken of these Papers. We occasionally lose books in the institution; it but seldom happens; but still, if the Parliamentary Papers should be lost, to make an individual responsible for it would be placing him in a position which I think no individual would like to occupy.

1652. But do you consider that there would be any objection to annexing the condition, that in the event of the dissolution of the society, these Papers should revert to the public, and not be the property of the society?—I think such a condition should be insisted upon.

1653. So that in fact they should not be so much a gift to the society as a loan for the use of the public during its existence?—Yes; and perhaps if Parliament were to have these matters printed on some paper which should contain a watermark, capable of distinguishing the Paper as the property of the Crown, or something of that sort, making the sale of such Papers a breach of the law, it would still further prevent their application to any other purpose.

1654. Mr. *Headlam.*] You would have a record kept of every Paper that was distributed in such a form?—Yes; not only that, but if there were a watermark in the paper, and an Act were passed subjecting parties who purchase such Papers to some penalty, they would find it difficult to dispose of them in any way.

1655. *Chairman.*] Can you assign any reason for the institution with which you are connected having so large a number of members?—I think the increase of members from 804 in 1851, to 1,278 now, or an increase of 50 per cent., arises principally from a bold policy in the engagement of a more expensive, because higher class of lecturers, the occasional introduction of first class concerts and entertainments; the increase of the library; constant attention to the interests of the institution by a few of its members; and to keeping up during the summer

mer months an interest in the institution, by an occasional railway trip, a steam excursion, and matters of that sort, which keep the members together, members being on these occasions charged the cheapest possible price; and which prevents the institution from sinking during the summer, while those in the neighbourhood decline in numbers very considerably. Another matter to which I am inclined to attach some importance, is a steady resolution to prevent the introduction of reserved seats at all first class entertainments, &c.; the carrying out this principle, that every individual connected with the institution has a right to any seat in the hall, has prevented the working classes from becoming dissatisfied, and the higher classes, although they have on some occasions made applications to get a relaxation of such a regulation, have seen and acquiesced in its propriety.

1656. Mr. *Headlam.*] Are not the working classes more deterred by modesty and shyness from mixing with the upper classes, than from being put in a worse place?—No, I think not.

1657. You have not found that in your experience?—No, not in our society; there is a good feeling among the higher classes and the working classes, and you will find the greatest respect shown. If a lady come in, and there is a working man sitting down, you will see him rise up and give her his place, if other places are full; and from the good feeling which exists I believe we derive a considerable portion of our prosperity. It is much more difficult to bring back the feelings of the working classes if once they are alienated, than it is to cause the higher classes to see the necessity of submitting to a certain regulation when it is properly explained to them.

1658. According to your experience, the fact of all classes joining in the institution has no tendency to cause the higher classes to secede from it?—No, certainly not.

1659. *Chairman.*] What is the amount of the subscription yearly?—Ten shillings a year, and 8*s.* a year.

1660. Are there two classes of members then?—Senior members pay 10*s.* a year, the junior members, 8*s.*

1661. Will you explain the difference between the senior and junior members?—A senior member is a person of full age, and for his 10*s.* he gets a ticket which admits to all lectures free, and another ticket which admits a friend to all gratuitous lectures free, and all other lectures at half-price; the object being that an original member, if he wished to take his wife or son, and cannot afford to pay their subscriptions, and any lecture should be delivered which he wishes them to attend, he can take them at a low rate.

1662. Is that the general rate of subscription amongst these societies in the West of England?—Yes, generally; some of them are lower, but in cases where they are lower they seem to have no library, and their lectures seem to be gratuitous or nearly so.

1663. Is there any having a library which has a higher subscription?—The subscription varies from a guinea to a shilling. A guinea is the subscription of an honorary member who is supposed to belong to the higher classes.

1664. But the general rate of subscription is not higher than 10*s.* a year?—Ten shillings or 10*s.* 6*d.* a year is the general rate of subscription for the two counties.

1665. Mr. *Michell.*] Is there a news-room attached to your institution?—There is a news-room, but it is maintained independently of the institution; an extra 10*s.* is charged to members for the news-room; but in addition to that, for the purpose of making it a means of supporting the institution, we charge persons who are not members of the institution a guinea a year.

1666. *Chairman.*] Is the library a great attraction to the institution?—Yes; especially during the summer months.

1667. Then anything that would increase the interest of that library would increase the prosperity of the institution?—Yes.

1668. And you are of opinion that a judicious selection of the Parliamentary Papers and documents on topics of interest of the day would prove an additional attraction to the library?—Yes.

1669. Mr. *Michell.*] Would it answer the purpose of your society to have the prices of the Papers published in the "Journal of Arts"? If the Society of Arts were authorised to publish the prices, as they publish the names of the Papers now, would it answer the purpose of the different societies to gain a

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knowledge in that way of what Papers were sent out, or what Papers were to be had?—Yes, I think it would. Beside the "Journal of Arts" there are many publications which contain a list of the Papers, and if the prices were affixed in all those publications, I think it would be very desirable.

1670. Mr. *Stirling.*] Is there any literary or other institution in which these Papers are received at present?—I rather think at Plymouth many of the Papers are received; whether they are all received or not, I am not quite certain.

1671. Where are they taken in?—At the Plymouth Public Library, one of the largest, if not the largest public library in the West of England. It is altogether supported by a higher class of persons than these more popular institutions.

1672. Is there any public rate for the support of that library?—No, I think it would be very difficult to get a rate in any of the towns in the West of England for such a purpose; the feeling is, they are not in a condition to make such a grant.

1673. Do you think there is any wish to establish public libraries to be supported by a municipal rate in the West of England?—In some of the large towns in the West of England there is a feeling among the inhabitants in favour of it, but it is only a feeling; if the ratepayers were called together in each place you would have an overwhelming majority against the rate.

1674. Then I collect that you consider that at present there is no hope of any public free library being established in the West of England, for instance, in large towns such as Plymouth, or Devonport, or Exeter?—I do not think there is the slightest chance of its being done, except by the gift of an individual, or individuals.

1675. You are aware that any town has the power, under Mr. Ewart's Act, of establishing a public free library, to be supported by a municipal rate?—Yes, and at one of our committee meetings it was proposed to introduce into the Report some allusion to it; but the general feeling was, that any such allusion would call up an opposition to the society, on the part of many of the ratepayers, and consequently the clause was struck out.

1676. Mr. *Michell.*] Do you not think, if these Parliamentary Papers were distributed in different places, where free libraries exist, it would open people's minds as to their value, and make them wish to have more?—I am not certain upon that point; there are many of the strongest friends of education in the West of England, who think that what the people do for themselves, they do very much better than that which is done for them: people take very much more interest in an institution where it is self-supporting. I question whether it would be so practicable in the West of England as it is in other large towns. In Liverpool, for instance, and Manchester, the desire of others, as well as the working classes, for a public free library is very strong indeed, but in the towns of the West of England we should not find the same support.

1677. *Chairman.*] There is not the same spirit of inquiry among the higher classes in the large towns in the West of England?—I am afraid you would not find the same feeling prevail in the towns of the West of England, among what we call the higher classes, for such establishments.

1678. Supposing a free library were established, should you consider it to have a prior claim to the Parliamentary Papers, with reference to any other institution?—I think it would have a claim; whether it should have a prior claim is very questionable. I think if people can be induced to set aside a portion of their income, that income being a small one, for the purpose of obtaining for themselves a library, lectures, and such other means of education, it is very doubtful whether a free library should enjoy advantages over such an institution; whether Parliament should grant to an institution which does not require people to make such an exertion anything which it does not give to these other institutions.

1679. Mr. *Stirling.*] Should you not consider a free library as coming in a certain degree under a different category, because if the inhabitants of a place consent to a rate, it shows they are willing to be at some expense for a public library?—I think it would come within the same principle; I do not think they should have any special advantages over the claims of individuals who are anxious to improve themselves, and who do so at their own expense.

1680. Do you think the existence of a free library, such as you have mentioned, is injurious or the reverse as regards the prosperity of a mechanics' institute;

institute; do you think it takes away subscriptions from it?—It would in some cases, I have no doubt, but not always so, or necessarily so; we have had experience of that in our own locality. For instance, within a few years a library has been founded in the Dockyard, the subscription to which was very small; a very valuable donation of books was made to it by the Lords of the Admiralty, and at first it was the opinion of many persons that it would seriously interfere with us; instead of which we found the number of our members went on increasing, and it continues so to do. I think the raising of a particular class only of society tends to make other people very much alive to their own interests, by seeking to extend their means of education.

1681. The supply of knowledge increases the demand?—Yes, I think so.

1682. *Chairman.*] Are you of opinion that in case these Parliamentary Papers should be distributed it would be necessary to take great care with respect to the selection, in order that such only should be selected as would prove of interest to the members of the institution, and not be cast by as useless?—Care should be taken in their selection, but it is difficult to say how that care should be exercised; there are Papers, of course, of greater interest than others, and these Papers might be selected by some party in London authorised to do so; but it would be a pity to confine the Papers in each locality to particular matters, because what would be of great interest in one district might be useless in another. One great feature of our institution is getting up discussions after lectures. It so happened during our last season that we had two lectures put down by two individuals holding different opinions on India; Parliamentary Papers on which might have been consulted with very great advantage; and if we could have obtained these Papers I have no doubt facts would have been elicited after each lecture, which could not be brought out for want of proper information. The same was the case with respect to Ceylon, upon which the Right honourable Chairman favoured the Stonehouse institution with a lecture. There were no means of obtaining information except that which he brought down to us; if there had been the means there would probably have been a discussion after the lecture which might have brought out still more information than he gave us.

1683. It is usual, then, after a lecture, to have a discussion on the subject of the lecture, is it?—Yes.

1684. Mr. *Michell.*] Do you think, where the building belongs to the borough or parish in which it is situate, and not to the institution, they would appropriate a room for the books to be deposited in, and allow that room to be opened, say twice a week, that would entitle them to the Papers, more as being of a permanent character, than a place which has no site or building appropriated to it?—I think in any case it should not be insisted upon that a separate room should be used. For instance, we have a large room in which our librarian sits every evening; he has the whole of that room under his eye. If we had a special room for these Papers, he would have to go at any moment to lock or unlock it, and the consequence would be that we should lose some of the Papers, as we could not shut the library. I think in some institutions you will find there is a room quite large enough to accommodate these documents.

1685. *Chairman.*] Are there any institutions besides the mechanics' institute in Devonport?—There is the Working Man's Library and the Public Library. In the Working Man's Library they have occasional lectures; in the Public Library they have no lectures; it is a higher class institution.

1686. Do you recommend that these Papers should be distributed to more than one institution in a town?—Certainly, I think one institution might be sufficient, but in great towns these institutions embrace persons of different classes; and great ignorance prevails among the different classes relative to many points, and that ignorance might be removed if they had these Papers to consult in their own institutions. For instance, if, in the Working Man's Library, there was a set of Papers upon a question upon which they desired information, they would go and consult them, but they would not dream of coming to the mechanics' institute, or going to the public library to do so; therefore, I think it would diffuse information more among all classes if the Papers were in two institutions in the town instead of one.

1687. Are the Reports of the Public Departments in London given to the institutions in Devonport?—Some of them are; such as the Royal Astronomical Society, the Society of Arts, and one or two others.

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1688. Are the Reports of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education?—Some of them have been received.

1689. Have you reason to know whether they excite great interest among the members of the society?—With a view to the preservation of such documents they cannot be removed from the institution except on application to the secretary, and being one of the honorary secretaries, I know that scarcely a day passes without an application for some book of that class; in fact, it sometimes occurs that there are three or four names given in for the same book.

1690. Does that relate to the Reports of the different Public Departments?—Yes.

1691. Are you of opinion then, that if there were a proper selection made, there would be equal curiosity shown with regard to other Parliamentary Papers?—With regard to many of them there would. It is not the bulk of the members who consult these documents, it is only a few amongst them, but that few influence the minds of the bulk. You will not find in any institutions that a large number of members will read them; a small number read, but a large number get the benefit of them.

1692. Mr. *Michell.*] If you proposed to purchase these Papers you would have a majority against you; they would like lighter reading?—Yes; I think you would find that to be the case.

1693. And that is one reason why they are not in these institutions as much as they would otherwise be?—I think it is.

1694. Still the institutions would like to have the Papers if they could get them?—Yes.

1695. *Chairman.*] Supposing these Papers should be given to only one institution in a town, are you of opinion that they should be accessible in that institution, not only to the members of it, but to the whole of the public?—I do not think you would find the least difficulty on the part of any individual in obtaining access to the Papers at any institution. Perhaps it would be a pity to insist upon that being the case. I think parties who can afford to become members of these institutions should do so, and this would be one means perhaps of bringing them into the institutions.

1696. Have you observed that the taste of the members of your institution for a higher class of literature has increased or diminished?—Increased; I have not the return before me, but one made some years ago gives a much lower rate to the issue of books of a certain class; such, for instance, as books on moral philosophy, natural and political philosophy, geography and topography, history, biography, and periodicals, than does the present return.

1697. Mr. *Michell.*] If there be only one set of Papers in a town, and there are two or three institutions, will it not be advisable to allow all those institutions to have access to these Papers; that is, that the members of each may have access to the institution in which the Papers are?—I doubt whether that would work well; in some cases there is a strong feeling of dislike between two institutions in the same town.

1698. Do you not think it would be desirable to do away with that feeling, and make them feel like brothers towards each other?—Very desirable, if it could be effected; but I am afraid this would be found to be the case, that parties would come from the institution which did not receive the Papers, night after night, for the mere purpose of giving trouble to the more successful institution, and consequently it would increase the feeling instead of decreasing it.

1699. Do you not think that when it is a man's interest for him to like another that he will do so, and therefore that it will produce a better feeling; if you have only got the papers in one institution in the town, I wish to know whether it would not give rise to a better feeling to allow all the other institutions to have access to them?—It might naturally be supposed so, but I think it would be found, under certain circumstances, detrimental rather than otherwise; I do not think there would be the slightest difficulty for any individual in any town to obtain access to these Papers; he would only have to go to some member, and he would at once obtain it.

1700. *Chairman.*] Do you think there would be any objection on the part of the institutions to pay the carriage of the papers?—I think many of these institutions could not afford to pay anything.

1701. That they would not receive them if any payment were annexed? —No.

1702. Mr. *Headlam.*] Do you not think that having to pay for the carriage of the papers would make them appreciate them more?—No, I think not.

1703. Mr. *Michell.*] Many institutions could not pay anything for them?—No, they could not.

1704. *Chairman.*] Are there any general observations which you would like to suggest on the point now under the investigation of the Committee?—I would suggest that everything that can be done to aid these institutions would be of the greatest public benefit. With regard to the Devonport institution, for instance, several years ago, a mechanical drawing class was formed, and the result of that drawing class is, that it was stated by Mr. Edey, the present master shipwright, that when he was at one of the other yards he wanted to get a draughtsman, and he had difficulty in finding an individual suited to his purpose, while in the Devonport Dockyard he might get 20 or 30 if he wanted them; this may be attributed to the formation of a class, at the first establishment of the institution, for the study of drawing, and the feeling which originated it has caused a desire for information to spread amongst the workmen. Among those who came to that class was Mr. Waterman, the draughtsman at Somerset House; and it was observed by Mr. Easthope, a gentleman employed in the survey of stores, a few days ago, that the skill and intelligence of the workmen at the Devonport Dockyard exceeded that of the same class in any other dockyard.

1705. You attribute that in a great measure to the interest in education which has been excited by the Mechanics' Institute?—I do.

1706. And are you of opinion that a similar desire for these Papers prevails throughout all the institutions with the exception of two with which you have been in communication, and that a proportionate benefit might be expected from the recognition as it were of their existence by a grant of the Parliamentary Papers?—I do.

1707. Mr. *Byng.*] In the event of a library being formed in the institution at Tavistock, where there appears to be none now, is a desire expressed by the members of that institution to receive the Parliamentary Papers?—Yes; the secretary of the institution, in reply to a communication on the subject, stated that if it was possible to form a library in connexion with their institution, there would be no question of the benefits of such Papers.

1708. *Chairman.*] Are there any particular results you can mention as having arisen from the information derived from the course of instruction at the Devonport Mechanics' Institute?—In addition to those already mentioned, I may refer to the introduction of composite great circle sailing, now admitted to be of national benefit, which was introduced by Mr. Towson, who attributed the idea which resulted in its application to a course of lectures delivered at the Devonport Mechanics' Institute. I would also state that Mr. Adams, the President of the Royal Astronomical Society, whose discovery of the new planet Neptune attracted so much attention, in a note in which he acknowledges his election as an honorary member of the institution, says, "I remember with much pleasure my early connexion with the institute, and the advantages which I derived from it, particularly in my astronomical studies. My acquaintance with fluxions was commenced by reading a book which I found in your library. It has given me much pleasure to hear of the great progress of the institution since that time."

Jovis, 28° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Tufnell.	Mr. Brotherton.
Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Cumming Bruce.	Mr. Headlam.
Mr. Michell.	Mr. Fortescue.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY TUFNELL, IN THE CHAIR.

John Thomson Gordon, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. T. Gordon, Esq.
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1709. *Chairman.*] YOU are Sheriff of Mid-Lothian?—I am.

1710. You are also one of the directors, I believe, of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution?—I am.

1711. Who is president of that institution?—The president is Professor John Wilson, lately Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.

1712. Is there a large number of subscribers to that institution?—I think last year the subscribers exceeded 2,000.

1713. What is the amount of subscription?—The amount of subscription is one guinea annually, which admits to all courses of lectures delivered during the six winter months, and to the reading-room and library. Then there are tickets at five guineas, which I think admit for seven years, and tickets of ten guineas, which are life tickets. That is my impression at this moment; I am not quite sure.

1714. Is it altogether a private institution, or are the public admitted?—The public are admitted to the lectures sometimes, on paying, I think, 1 *s.* at the door.

1715. Are the public admitted to the library?—No, not to the library.

1716. Has the institution subscribed for the Parliamentary Papers?—I cannot answer the question at this moment; I could very easily learn.

1717. Have you heard any wish expressed by the members of the institution that they should be obtained?—Yes, a very general wish; my impression is, that an application was made; that a petition was presented to Parliament on the subject in the name of the Philosophical Institution.

1718. How long has the institution been in existence?—Many years; I cannot just now recollect the date of the opening of the hall it has built for itself in Queen-street. It is now established, and has a reading-room of its own.

1719. Do you know the number of volumes in the library?—I do not.

1720. Is it constantly increasing?—Yes; both by purchases and donations.

1721. Supposing it should be made a condition of a grant of the Parliamentary Papers that they should be accessible to other persons besides the members of the institution, would that be an objection to receiving them?—I should be inclined to say it would not; I think it might be very conveniently arranged so as to give access to the public without inconveniently crowding the rooms.

1722. Is there a room which might be appropriated exclusively to the Parliamentary Papers?—I do not know at this moment that there is any room that could be set apart; I should think there would be room enough in the building, which is a very large one.

1723. Is the library yearly increasing?—Yes.

1724. Is a sum appropriated out of the subscriptions for adding to the library every year?—There is a sum appropriated; I cannot state the precise amount.

1725. Supposing they should receive the Parliamentary Papers; would they wish

wish to receive the whole, or merely a selection?—I should be inclined to think a selection. I should think there would be a number of them that would not be of any great advantage, except occasionally, and for the purpose of reference. They are so voluminous, that I should think they would fill up the space.

1726. With whom do you think such a selection should rest?—I should think that the selection might rest very safely with the general committee of management of the institution.

1727. That the committee of management should select and make an application to the authorities in this House for the papers that they wish to have?—Yes.

1728. You think they would be sufficiently acquainted with the nature of these papers to understand what would be best suited to them?—I think so; because I should say that every class of the subscribers to the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution is represented in the body of directors and in the committee. It includes all kind of people in Edinburgh.

1729. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Is there any other institution in Edinburgh in which access may be had at present to the Parliamentary Papers; do you know whether they are already received in any institution?—I am not aware; they may be in the Advocates' Library. I do not know whether the Subscription Library in Edinburgh gets them now or not.

1730. You cannot say whether the Advocates' Library gets them?—I think the Advocates' Library gets all the Parliamentary Papers.

1731. There is no difficulty of access at all to the Advocates' Library, I believe?—No, it is quite open.

1732. You cannot go without being recommended?—No; but that is very easily got; all opportunity is given for reading the books and for making extracts.

1733. In point of fact, it may be stated that the Advocates' Library is open to all the world that has any claim to be admitted?—Yes; there is no restriction beyond what is absolutely necessary for the safety of the books and papers.

1734. I believe they go farther, and allow the books and papers to be taken away?—Practically it is done; but every book and paper taken out of the Advocates' Library must appear against the name of a member of the Faculty of Advocates.

1735. *Chairman.*] Have you any general observations you wish to make?—I am not aware of any.

1736. Mr. *Ewart.*] Have you any libraries in Edinburgh open to the public without any restriction?—The nearest approach to it is the Advocates' Library.

1737. Would a working man or a foreigner be admitted into the Advocates' Library?—I should say they would hardly carry their principle so far as that.

1738. Have you any library in Edinburgh to which members of the working class may be admitted freely without hesitation?—I am hardly able to answer that question.

1739. Has the question ever been agitated about establishing free public libraries in Edinburgh, such as they have at Manchester?—The topic has been discussed more than once among the citizens of Edinburgh, but it has never come to a practical result.

1740. Do you think they would like to submit to a rate for that purpose, as in other towns?—I should hope that eventually they would; but at present I do not know that they are prepared for that.

John Alexander Mackay, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1741. ARE you the President of the Edinburgh Subscription Library?—I am.

1742. How long has that been established?—Since 1794; nearly 60 years.

1743. Is it supported entirely by subscriptions?—Entirely.

1744. What is the income of that library?—From 400 *l.* to 600 *l.* per annum, depending upon circumstances.

1745. What is the amount of annual subscription?—A guinea a year.

1746. Have the subscribers been increasing or decreasing of late?—They have increased within the last 14 years; they have increased from May 1840 to May 1850; there were 40 new tickets sold, thereby making up the number of subscribers.

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1747. What is the number of volumes in that institution?—Upwards of 16,000.

1748. Where is the library situated?—In George-street; at the corner of Hanover-street.

1749. That is a very central and public situation?—Very much so.

1750. Are strangers admitted into that institution?—Yes, strangers are admitted into the library to consult the books at any time.

1751. Are they obliged to get an introduction from a member?—They are not obliged to get an introduction from a member; any person may walk in, and ask for the sight of a book, and it is never refused.

1752. Can you state whether there is an annual addition to the number of volumes in the library?—There is; it varies, I think, from 300 to 500 volumes; in some years 300 volumes; in some years 500. In some years it has been upwards of 500 volumes.

1753. Is there a reading-room there which is open at night?—There is a reading-room, but it is not open at night; it is a thing altogether for the use of the subscribers.

1754. During what hours is it open?—From 10 in the morning till four in the afternoon.

1755. Then the library after that time is shut up?—It is shut up.

1756. Are the books lent out to the members?—Yes.

1757. It is a circulating library?—Yes.

1758. Have the Commissioners of Public Records given you any of their publications?—Yes, they have given them all; and on a late occasion, when the Excise building was dispensed with in Edinburgh, we applied for a grant, and got all the Acts of Parliament that had belonged to the Excise Office in Scotland, being upwards of 120 volumes.

1759. Have you received any of the publications of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education?—Yes, a number of them.

1760. Have you received any from the Department of Practical Art?—Not any from the Department of Practical Art.

1761. Have you received any other publications?—We have received the Reports of the Prison Board, and the Reports of the Poor Law Commissioners.

1762. Are they much used in the library?—They are very much looked at by parties taking an interest in them.

1763. Have you heard a wish expressed by the members, to have a selection from the Parliamentary Papers sent to them?—Very much so; so much so that we buy those of general interest to Scotland.

1764. Will you state what you have bought already; for instance, within the last year or two?—It is difficult for me to say, without looking over the catalogue, but all the Reports of interest to Scotland, and more immediately interesting to Edinburgh, particularly, we purchase.

1765. Have you a catalogue of your library?—This is a catalogue with three supplements, one at the end of the catalogue, and two separately; a supplement is published at the end of every two years.

1766. What is the class of members belonging to your institution chiefly; are they persons in trade?—A good many are in trade, and many are of the learned professions. We have a good many members of the Faculty of Physicians, a good many of the College of Surgeons, some of the Faculty of Advocates, several of the Society of Writers to the Signet, and of the solicitors of the Supreme Courts.

1767. You have no members of the lower classes, such as artisans?—All are subscribers who choose to purchase a ticket.

1768. But the chief part of the subscribers are of a higher station in life?—I should say chiefly in the upper and middle classes.

1769. And amongst the members, you have heard a strong desire expressed to have the Parliamentary Papers?—Very strong indeed.

1770. Mr. *Ewart.*] What sum per annum is expended for the Parliamentary Papers?—I really cannot say; it depends on whether Parliamentary Papers are published such as we should be anxious to get.

1771. You cannot give us the sum annually expended for Parliamentary Papers?—No.

1772. Does

1772. Does it bear a considerable proportion to your other expenditure?—I could give you no idea.

1773. Have you bought a good many of the Papers?—We have bought a good many.

1774. Would a selection of the Papers made by a Committee of the House of Commons relieve you considerably?—Yes, it would, to a considerable extent.

1775. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] You mentioned that the Acts of Parliament which had belonged to the Board of Excise had been given to your library?—Yes.

1776. Are they consulted much, or are they so much waste paper merely?—They have been consulted; I have seen them consulted myself, by legal gentlemen belonging to the society.

1777. As a matter of general interest, Acts of Parliament would be less interesting, I presume, to the subscribers to your library than Reports upon general subjects?—Yes; still we get all the Acts of Parliament relative to Scotland.

1778. If a selection were made, what do you suppose would be the best way to arrange what papers should be sent to your library; should it be by an application by your managing directors, or by a Committee of this House?—I think the anxiety to get them early is sometimes so great, that we should rather that a Committee of the House should send them down to us on the moment, because otherwise the interest would be gone before we could get them.

1779. Would you be willing in that case to pay the postage or carriage of the papers in going down?—We should be willing to pay the postage; we pay that and the price also at present.

1780. For the sake of getting them immediately, you would willingly pay the postage rather than have them stop to the end of the Session?—Yes, I should think so; I would recommend that to the committee.

1781. Do you think you would have room for any number that might be sent?—We should make room if we had not it. I may mention, with reference to this subject, that we wanted the evidence upon the Annuity Tax Bill, and we had to make the bookseller write to London half a dozen times before we could get it.

1782. Mr. *Ewart.*] Is there any literary institution or library in Edinburgh entirely open to the public, without any sort of preliminary inquiry as to the persons seeking for admission?—No, I think not; I think we are as liberal in that respect as almost anybody. Frequently gentlemen, and other people wanting to consult a book or an Act of Parliament, just come up to the library and ask the librarian if he has got it, and he gets it out and gives them a sight of it.

1783. Without any preliminary introduction?—Without any preliminary introduction. It may be the same at the Advocates' Library.

1784. Mr. *Michell.*] If private individuals in Edinburgh require the Parliamentary Papers, do they find great difficulty in getting them?—I should say they would find a great difficulty in the Advocates' Library, which is almost the only body that gets them; they do not get them oftener than once a month; they are sent down in their monthly parcels, and then they lie in a heap, and have to be sorted out.

1785. And if a person were to send to London for Parliamentary Papers, would he have a difficulty in getting those he required?—I think not in general.

1786. If there be any particular book you require, you do not find any difficulty in getting it here?—No: the bookseller procures it for us; I understand there is an office in Lincoln-Inn Fields at which the papers may be purchased.

1787. Mr. *Ewart.*] Of course the Advocates' Library is not open to the working classes?—No.

1788. Nor can your library be without a recommendation?—Not without a recommendation.

1789. Has the subject ever been entertained at Edinburgh of having a library open without restriction?—I believe it has; I am not so well acquainted with that.

1790. Are you aware whether there is any institution in Edinburgh of a similar kind to yours, which is principally supported by the working classes?—The Mechanics' Library.

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1791. Is that a flourishing concern?—I believe it is; I cannot speak from my own knowledge.

1792. Is that confined entirely to mechanics, or is there a mixture there of the middle classes?—There is a mixture there of the middle classes, I believe.

1793. Do you not think that, in choosing a receptacle for the Parliamentary Papers, some place should be chosen which is accessible to all the inhabitants?—The most accessible place is our library, because it is the most centrical.

1794. The accessibility depends on a person being a subscriber, does it not?—They have two people in the library to get books from.

1795. Still, persons could not have a right to claim admission unless you chose to give it?—No.

1796. Mr. *C Bruce.*] I think you stated that everybody was admitted who wished to consult a book?—Yes; I never found any difficulty.

1797. *Chairman.*] For what class of books is the chief demand in your library; is it for works of fiction, or for works of science?—Amongst the ladies, of course, it is for works of fiction; but we have always been anxious to add works that were not to be found in the ordinary circulating libraries, as well as works of fiction. We keep up the literature of the day in every department, except medicine and law. The more general works we get of course.

1798. You have no return to show for what class of books you have the chief demand?—No. I may mention that we have all the Maitland Club books, the Bannatyne Club books, and the Camden Society's books. I bought myself, when I was secretary, 40 volumes of the Camden Society's publications, just to increase the value of the library as a library of reference.

1799. Mr. *Ewart.*] Can you tell us what sum you lay out yearly in the purchase of books?—From 150 *l.* to 200 *l.* a year.

1800. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Are books frequently presented as gifts to the library?—Yes.

1801. Mr. *Ewart.*] Up to what period have you received Acts of Parliament from the Excise Office?—Up to the year the Excise Office was given up; I forget what year that was. We have upwards of 100 volumes of Acts of Parliament.

1802. Was it 20 years' ago?—No, I do not think it was so long.

1803. How have you been supplied since that time?—We have bought the Acts of Parliament connected with Scotland.

1804. You have bought a certain number every year, I suppose?—Yes; the Public Acts.

1805. *Chairman.*] Do you subscribe for Hansard?—No.

1806. Are there any general remarks you wish to make with respect to the advantages of distributing the Parliamentary Papers?—I am not aware of any.

1807. Mr. *Ewart.*] Do you think that the taste for reading has very much increased of late years?—Yes.

1808. In the flourishing state of your institution, you trace the result of that increased taste?—Yes; the collection of books in our library, I should say, has doubled since I went to it.

1809. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] You stated before, that you would prefer the Parliamentary Papers being sent down at once by a Committee of the House of Commons appointed to arrange the matter rather than they should wait for your application; what was the reason of that?—Because we do not always know when the Parliamentary Papers come out, and before we could write for them and get them down the interest would be very much gone off.

1810. Mr. *Ewart.*] Is the taste for reading very much extended among the working classes in Edinburgh?—I think it is certainly, and that it is very much in consequence of the small periodical publications.

1811. Has it increased among that class of society more than in any other?—I should say so.

1812. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] We have it in evidence that in some of the libraries in English towns the class of books which are most in demand have been novels, and publications of a very light nature; is that the case with the library with which you are connected?—I should say that, except among the female members of families, that is not the case; the books most in demand are those of general literature. I may mention that all new books, after lying on the table for a month, are added to the library, and during that time the members can take

take them home at half-past three in the afternoon, returning them again the next morning. *J. A. Mackay*, Esq.

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1813. Are you of opinion that it would be of general public benefit to give the public of Edinburgh generally, through the medium of these documents, information of what is going on in the House of Commons with regard to public questions which are the subjects of legislation?—Yes; I think it would be of great benefit to Edinburgh to have more of the Parliamentary Papers sent down, and that they are not more generally seen now because they are not so accessible as they should be.

Edward Morton, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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1814. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your profession?—I am a short-hand writer in the Courts, and occasionally attending Committees; I am also a member of Gray's-Inn, and have contributed to some extent to newspapers and magazines on topics of interest, such as sanitary questions, education, and so on: in both capacities I have had a good deal to do with "Blue Books."

1815. Have you formed any opinion with respect to the distribution of the Parliamentary Papers?—I think they contain matter of so much value that it is much to be regretted that they are issued to the public in such a shape as to render it all but useless. Parliament, if I may be permitted to say so, publishes too late and publishes too much. I may illustrate this proposition by supposing that the Debates, instead of appearing every morning in the public journals, were not published until the end of the Session, and that then they appeared in a series of Blue Books: it is clear that instead of the millions of readers they now have, they would not have as many hundreds. No one, comparatively, reads "Hansard," and the "Mirror of Parliament" was a ruinous speculation. The evidence before Select Committees contains matter not only valuable to the legislator and the jurist, but of popular interest. I may particularly refer to the statistics of health, crime, and so on, and facts and opinions on the social condition of important classes. The diffusion of this would have the best effects in forming public opinion, and even preparing the Members of the Legislature themselves for changes of measures or policy which are called for, but have to encounter prejudices and habits which are only to be overcome by information.

1816. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Frequently interesting evidence not immediately connected with the subject of inquiry comes out incidentally, as in the case of Mr. Warren's evidence before this Committee?—Certainly. Such evidence, if it came out the next day, or in the same week, would be read with avidity and would be very beneficial; but at present it does not appear until it is reported to the House, after the inquiry is over, and this is generally at the end of the Session. The interest of the subject has then gone off, for the world moves on so fast, that the popular interest attaching to any subject can be but temporary, and thus the opportunity is lost for making it available, at least to its full extent. Then when it does come out it is in the shape of a Blue Book, the bulk of which appals an ordinary reader. Supposing him to be attracted to it by the interest of the subject, the chances are that he is not able to get through such a mass of matter. Few people have time for such reading. Then again, they come out in such numbers, that unless directed to a particular subject by previous acquaintance with it, the most resolute student of Blue Books finds himself bewildered. The consequence is, that of the mass of Papers printed by Parliament each Session, it would be scarcely an exaggeration to say that one half finds its way to the waste-paper shops as soon as published. To employ a familiar figure, Parliament dams up its waters until the dry season is over, and then lets them out in a flood which inundates, not fertilises.

1817. *Chairman.*] Do you think there is an appetite on the part of the public for such information?—I think there is, and that Parliament by a slight change in its system, might indulge that public appetite with great advantage, and without any inconvenience or increase of expense. I am so convinced that public attention needs only to be awakened to the importance and interest of many of these Papers, to insure their general circulation, that I some time ago projected a journal, a main object of which was to supply the demand which I conceived thus to exist, or which a supply might call into existence, by giving, week by week, extracts from, or abridgments of the evidence before Select Committees.

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mittees. I thought that what I would venture to call the unwise restrictions imposed on the issue of this information, created a want for such a publication, which would make the speculation a profitable one, even in private hands. An essential condition, however, of the success of such a work, would be the permission to publish portions of the evidence in certain cases while the inquiry was going on, and while the subject was fresh in the public mind; and as it appeared doubtful whether any influence I could be likely to exercise would procure such a permission, no publisher has been bold enough to undertake it. I mention this merely as a project of my own, and as no otherwise of importance than as indicating what I conceive to be the course which Parliament might take. I may perhaps add, that I think admitting the public to the Committee-rooms, so to speak, would have also a moral effect. Parliament would appear to greater advantage in its Committee-rooms, in which members of all parties are engaged in elaborating the materials on which its acts are founded, than even in its debates.

1818. Mr. *Ewart.*] Would you propose that the Committee-rooms should be open to the public, and that the evidence should be taken down by reporters and published in the newspapers?—No, I would not recommend that; the sense in which I would admit the public, would be by the immediate publication of the proceedings.

1819. Will you state what you would propose?—I should say, in the first place, that the Minutes of Evidence, as printed for the use of the Committee, should be the things issued to the Members of the House, and to the public; and that they should be issued as soon as printed, except in certain cases.

1820. *Chairman.*] You are aware that, at present, the Minutes of Evidence are directed by The House to be confined exclusively to the use of the Members of such Committees?—Yes; that is a point to which I wish particularly to call the attention of the Committee. Speaking respectfully, I have always been puzzled by the endorsement on the printed Minutes, to the effect that great inconvenience had arisen from the publication of the Minutes of Evidence, and so on. During the 25 years that I have been employed on Committees, I have never known more than two or three cases, arising out of matters of a personal nature, in which the immediate publication of the evidence could have been attended with anything but advantage. I would suggest, therefore, that it should always be in the discretion of the Committee: that the first question for its decision might be, "Shall we publish our Minutes, or not?"

1821. Would not the publication of the Minutes, in the way you propose, increase the expense of printing?—No, I think not; I should say, that if issued at a moderate price, and made transmissible by post at a low rate, the sale would be so large as to cover the whole cost of printing and publication.

1822. Do you think they would be taken in by private persons?—I have no doubt they would, and that in many cases the sale would be very extensive. There is a growing spirit of inquiry abroad; and more or less interest would always be felt in subjects upon which Committees of this House were engaged. I may mention, for example, the Select Committee on Indian Affairs, which is sitting at this moment in an adjoining room. This is a subject in which a very large class of people take a deep interest, and upon which at present they are very ill informed; I believe, therefore, that if the Minutes of Evidence were permitted to be published, say once a week, they would get into an immediate and large circulation.

1823. Mr. *Ewart.*] Do you think that they would be taken by the public journals?—Certainly.

1824. And that they would give extracts from the evidence when of interest, and so call public attention to it?—There is no doubt that that would be the case; it would be to their own interest to do so.

1825. There are a good many class or professional papers published, such as "The Builder" and "The Lancet," and the number seems to be increasing; do you think those papers would take in the Minutes of Evidence, and publish extracts from such as might be of interest to their readers?—No doubt.

1826. Would not such abridgments as the public journals would give supersede the demand for the papers themselves?—No; I think the effect would be to call attention to the subject; and in the majority of cases the sale of the Papers would be increased, because the public would prefer to have the Papers themselves.

1827. Do you not think that the newspapers would give the substance of the evidence, and in a more popular form than that of question and answer?—No; I am inclined to think that on subjects of interest the public would not be content with the substance, and that the form of dialogue is not unpopular; it gives a dramatic interest to the evidence; the only objection is, that the examination is sometimes conducted in too discursive a style; there is a want of continuous interest, from one subject not being followed up and exhausted before another is started.

1828. You think there is room for improvement in that respect?—I am not quite sure of that; the evidence would not be so freely given under other circumstances. Each Member putting questions as they occur to his mind, or are suggested in the course of the examination, has the effect of eliciting facts and opinions which might not otherwise be brought out.

1829. You think then the effect of the publication of the Evidence in the newspapers would awaken public attention to the particular subject without superseding the sale of the Papers themselves?—I think so; I am satisfied that the Papers would circulate largely and regularly among certain classes, professional men of various kinds, and persons carrying on inquiries, political, scientific; and they would be of great value to merchants, and people engaged in commerce. There would also be a great demand for them in the colonies, particularly in India, Australia and Canada, I think the effect would also be to set men's minds to work, and that Parliament might obtain much valuable aid in the way of facts or suggestions upon the subjects engaging its attention.

1830. Would not the publication of the Evidence, as you propose, bring it under the notice of the Members of the Legislature themselves in time to be made use of for purposes for which it cannot now be available?—Certainly; I understand that a Member of the Legislature cannot obtain a copy of the Evidence before any Committee of which he is not a Member without the Speaker's order. Upon the question of expense I may add, that if I have formed an over sanguine estimate of the sum likely to be produced by the sale of the Papers, the only increased expense would be for the paper and press-work for the additional number of copies; and if I am right in supposing that the advantages I have pointed out would arise from the circulation of the papers, this would be amply repaid. I would also submit that a more than equivalent saving might be effected in another way. The Committee is aware that the Minutes of Evidence, as printed for the use of the Committee, and the aggregated Blue Book, are two distinct things, separately set up, and for which different types are used. As I have taken the liberty to suggest that the first question for every Committee might be, "Shall we publish our Minutes?" I would add that so the last might be, "Shall we publish a Blue Book?" It is well known that there are many inquiries which may be considered to be at an end when the Report is presented, the questions submitted to the Committee having been solved, and no further interest being likely to be felt in the matter. In such a case, I would respectfully suggest that a second printing and second publication of the Evidence would be unnecessary. A considerable expense (I believe the most serious item of the printer's bill) would thus be saved in so many cases; and it would also be attended with this result, that the number of Blue Books would be proportionately diminished.

1831. You are aware that the Minutes as first printed are not perfect?—Yes; I conceive that this might be remedied by allowing the witnesses to correct their evidence under competent superintendence. For several years after I began to attend Committees, the practice was to allow the witness to make such additions or corrections in the manuscript as enabled him to complete without altering the sense. It is now, and has been for some years, the rule not to permit the witness to see his evidence until it is in print.

1832. Do you know what gave rise to that?—I am not aware; I presume it was found that in some cases the witnesses took great liberties with their evidence when allowed to correct it in manuscript. I think I heard that on some occasions they altered and even struck out some questions as well as answers. I conceive, however, that this could only arise from the want of superintendence, and that this might be left to the clerk of such a Standing Committee on "Parliamentary Papers," as I understand some of the questions

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to former witnesses to point to. Supposing this rule, however, not to be relaxed, I would suggest that the Chairman of the Committee and the witnesses should be furnished with proofs of the printed Minutes, which should be corrected and returned to the printer before they are issued to the public.

1833. Would not this delay the publication of the Minutes?—It would occasion a little delay; it need not be a great deal; and the question is, whether this would not be repaid by the more accurate form in which they would appear.

1834. Mr. *Michell.*] Do you think that the Minutes of Evidence, if issued in the form you propose, should be distributed to the libraries and literary institutions throughout the kingdom?—I think it is desirable, under any circumstances, that at least one complete set of the Parliamentary Papers should be in some depository in which they would be accessible to the public in every considerable town. Whether they should be distributed by Parliament gratuitously is another question. I do not, for my own part, approve of giving away anything. I think the effect is to induce people to relax in their efforts to be self-supporting, and that they are apt to place very little value on the thing given. I should say that the better principle would be to issue the Parliamentary Papers at a very low rate; and one effect of the publication of the Papers in the way I propose would be to place within the reach of these societies the Papers in which their members are likely to take an interest in separate numbers, the cost of which would be trifling, and I believe the result would be, that they would be on the tables of every library and reading-room in the kingdom.

1835. Supposing it should appear that many literary societies are in debt, and are consequently unable to purchase these Papers, although many of their subscribers express a desire to have them; would that alter your view?—The only case in which I should be disposed to make a gratuitous grant of these Papers would be in aid of a public library, established under Mr. Ewart's Act, by means of a rate, and open to all classes; but even in that case, I should myself prefer making a grant of money for the purpose, in proportion to the funds raised by other means, in the same way as the grants made to schools by the Committee of Council on Education. I may add, that I should like to see the principle of issuing works at a reduced price extended to other publications, such as the Statutes, "Hansard," and even the works published by the Universities. I presume it would not be difficult for the Government to make arrangements for this purpose with the Queen's printers, the authorities of the Clarendon Press, the Pitt Press, and so on.

1836. Supposing Parliament should determine to make grants of a selection of the Parliamentary Papers to libraries and public societies, by whom should the selection be made?—I should say by a Standing Committee of The House. I think that under any circumstances such a Committee should be appointed to superintend the publication of the Minutes of Evidence and other Papers.

1837. Supposing no change to take place, do you think such a work as you have alluded to would be useful in calling public attention to the contents of the different Papers?—I think such a work might be very usefully carried on under any circumstances, in connexion with some of the public departments, such as the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade and the Department of Practical Art. It might be made a vehicle for many valuable Papers on Statistics, the Sciences, as connected with Schools of Design; and it might be one part of the duty of the clerk of such a Standing Committee as I have alluded to, to edit one department of such a work dedicated to State and Parliamentary Papers. He might, also, under the superintendence of the Committee, edit the various Blue Books I am speaking now of the second or collective edition. Some revision might be usefully exercised on that. Considering the high authority of Parliament, everything that emanates from it should be as perfect as possible. Portions of the evidence must always be comparatively unimportant, and these might be advantageously abridged or omitted. Having already appeared in the separate numbers, they could always be obtained in that form; and some copies of the separate numbers might be bound up for this purpose and for general reference. The result would be to diminish the bulk of the Blue Books, and perhaps to make their bulk bear something like a fixed proportion to their value, which is certainly desirable. At present they have passed into a proverb of heaviness. The Parliamentary Papers, in this form, might rather resemble the "Transactions"

of

of the learned Societies. In some respects they would be of superior value. Considering the powers and resources employed in their production, minds of the highest order engaged in solving the most interesting problems of legislation and social economy, and calling to their aid all the lights of genius and science, the result might certainly be something very different from what it is.

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1838. Do you think the present size of the Parliamentary Papers a convenient one?—I think it is highly inconvenient, so much so, that it has a good deal to do with restricting the sale. Few public libraries or institutions have space for books of such a size, and I suppose scarcely any private individuals buy whole sets. If they do, they must get rid of a great many very soon.

1839. What would be the best size?—I should say the octavo size. It would be a great object to have them portable. A person wishing to write upon, or read up to a particular subject, might like to take a Blue Book with him into the country, or abroad. At present that must be out of the question. I suppose no man would like to carry about Blue Books in their present form.

1840. Would it be better to have a wide page, or double columns?—That is a subject on which you will have better opinions than I can offer. I should say that for the collective edition, a book of the size of the "Edinburgh Review" would be the pleasantest to read. The separate numbers might be of the size of the "Economist," or the "Spectator," and in double columns.

1841. Mr. *Stirling.*] Do you think the publication of the Minutes of Evidence in the way you propose, would be useful in furnishing the public journals, and especially the provincial press, with accurate information on subjects on which they are at present imperfectly informed?—No doubt, and the public would be benefited in that way; but the beneficial results which I anticipate would be produced by operating in the first place on the public mind. As you add to the stock of public knowledge, you raise the standard of political writing. At present there is not much demand on the part of the general public for what may be called political science, and a great demand for party politics and personality. The circulation, especially from such a source of sound information, must tend to correct this.

Lunæ, 9° die Maii, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Tufnell.	Mr Walter.
Mr. Ewart.	Mr. Stirling.
Mr. Cumming Bruce.	Colonel Mure.
Mr. Fortescue.	Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Brotherton.	Mr. Byng.
Mr. Drummond.	Mr. Michell.
Mr. Headlam.	

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY TUFNELL, IN THE CHAIR.

Joseph Hume, Esq., a Member of The House; Examined.

1842. *Chairman.*] HAVE you paid attention to the matter of publishing the Papers of the House of Commons?—I have. Ever since the year 1823 I have had in view the publication of such documents as were then in the House of Commons store, and such as were daily accumulating in charge of the printer, in order that they should be made available for public information. Great difficulty was thrown in the way; first, on the score of legality, how far it would be right to publish information, many parts of which might contain charges against individuals; and it is also alleged that it would be attended with no benefit. There are Reports before The House of Select Committees, 1822-1828, 1832, and 1833, all of which I originated with the view of forwarding the printing and the distribution of Papers to the public at large, but it was not till 1828 that we could effect what was then to be only an experiment, viz., the sale of the Votes. I think you will find in the Reports before you an account of the sale of the Votes from 1828 up to the year 1835, and then a Committee produced three Reports on that subject. These I have now before me. The second relates more immediately to the object to which your attention is directed, viz., distri-

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bution to the public. We had a great deal of information, not only what was taken in evidence, but also communications from individuals whom we consulted with the view of ascertaining their private views, and the practicability of rendering the Parliamentary Papers useful. The result of our opinions appears at page 22 in the second Report: at page 18 will be seen the result of the sale of the Votes. Up to that period no person could obtain a copy of any Parliamentary document but by applying to some Member for his copy, or to the Speaker for a copy from the store, and the trouble attendant upon that state was very great. Every public man had, often in the Session, applications made to him for some one Paper or other. Many Members refused to ask the Speaker; but I never hesitated to ask him, and, consequently, was made very often the channel for forwarding that information. The printers of the Votes were Messrs. Nicholls, whilst Messrs. Hansard published the other Papers. In 1835 you will find, in page 18 of the second Report, that out of the 1,250 copies that were printed in each year, there had been received for sale of these Votes 3,908 *l.*, leaving the net cost to the public, 7,946 *l.* There appeared by that sale of the Votes to have been the greatest convenience; every party, all agents and public bodies having business before The House were able, by sending to Messrs. Nicholls, to obtain a copy of the Votes as soon as they were printed, and thus prevented the numerous applications that had been constantly made to Members. They knew when any question would come forward, and what had been done; in short, the saving of trouble to the Members as well as to the public was very great. Having consulted not only as to the saving of expense, but also as to the means of giving publicity to the object, that of diffusing information obtained before the House of Commons, amongst all parties in the country, who might be able at their leisure to attend to it; and thereby to enable individuals to bring various facts out of documents which had escaped, apparently, the attention of the Members, to their attention, each probably looking to their own immediate department of information; and it is in that way that I consider the documents laid before this House are of very great importance. Having weighed the *pros* and *cons*, the Committee came unanimously to this conclusion: "That it appears very desirable that the public should be supplied with the Parliamentary Sessional Papers, in the same way as they are supplied with the Votes; and the annually increasing demand for these Votes, leads your Committee to believe, that if the Sessional Papers were sold at fixed and moderate prices, and facilities given for their sale, that many of them would be purchased for the use of public libraries, reading-rooms, and public associations, and also by many public bodies and private individuals." Then the Report goes on, "The information which The House intended to convey, by the printing of their Returns and Papers, has hitherto been too much confined to its Members; but the advantage to the community by the diffusion of that information, which can, in the generality of cases, be obtained only through the House of Commons, must be evident to every Member who has directed his attention to the subject; and the estimation in which such information is held by public and private institutions, must be considered as a proof of its value, and a demand for its circulation. At present a hundred or more sets of Sessional Papers are sold at the Vote Office, but the demand of the public is supplied chiefly by Members giving their own copies, or by their procuring, by order of the Speaker, copies for their constituents and friends, a means of supply most unsatisfactory in many respects; and your Committee concur in opinion with preceding Committees, who have called the attention of The House to the subject, that means should be provided for selling them as the Votes are sold." Then at the end of the Report there are the Resolutions: at page 30 the 14th Resolution is, "That the Parliamentary Papers and Reports printed for the use of The House should be rendered accessible to the public by purchase, at the lowest price they can be furnished, and that a sufficient number of extra copies shall be printed for that purpose." Having come to that conclusion, the Committee deliberated as to the rate of charge or sale price; you will see, at page 18, after the quotation which I have given, that the recommendation of the Committee of 1833 has been acted upon by the Speaker in 1834; and a correspondence between Messrs. Hansard and the Speaker took place, to ascertain the actual cost, and in what way the sale should take place. We had before us a list at that time of every Paper for the year or Session; we averaged the expense, and we came, with the assistance of Mr. Rickman, whom, you are aware, was the late deputy clerk of

of Parliament, and afforded us very considerable assistance in that way; he brought us the average, by which it appeared that at the average price at the reduced rates, (for by this time we had reduced the price of the Parliamentary Papers nearly one-half by the preceding Committees), one penny per sheet would be the sum required by The House; that is, The House being at the expense of setting-up and printing, the whole additional expense that was required was the paper and throwing off; consequently the expense of a penny per sheet, at which the Parliamentary Papers have been sold, is only meant to pay for the charge of paper and drawing, and has nothing to do with the original setting-up of the 1,200 or 1,500 copies required for both Houses and for public bodies, as set forth in another Report; and, on mature consideration, the Report proceeds: "Your Committee have examined several booksellers as to the sale of these papers, and find there would be no difficulty in having agents for the sale of them, and further, at the office of Messrs. Hansard, they having professed their willingness to carry out any plan that could be suggested, the Committee considered that that course should be strongly pressed upon The House." There was an additional reason, which you will see stated in page 23; it is this: "Your Committee, considering the great and increasing accumulation of printed Parliamentary Papers in store, as already stated, and looking to the heavy expense incurred for printing, for warehouse rent, for establishment to take care of them; and taking into account the risk of fire, and of their being eventually fit only for waste paper, direct the particular attention of The House to these matters, with a view of checking for the future the charges now incurred; and looking to the immense number of Sessional Papers now in store, exceeding two millions of copies, Your Committee recommend that the Reports and Parliamentary Papers printed for the use of The House should be rendered accessible to the public by purchase, at the lowest possible price for which they can be furnished; that a sufficient number of copies should be printed for that purpose; and that they should be sold by agents in the metropolis, from whom the country may be supplied." In speaking of the extra number to be printed, a discretionary power you will see is given to the Speaker, and I believe there has been a list printed for this Committee. I had a similar Paper to this for the Committee on that day, and we found one class of Papers that were never in demand; another class being connected with matters that occupy very little of the attention of the country; there were others again that refer to manufactories and subjects of notoriety; an order was given, when the Speaker determined to increase or to reduce the number of copies, and the types were generally kept standing till the end of the Session, when it could be seen, and generally understood, what Papers would be most in demand, and upon that principle it was left. The Speaker was considered to be the best person with whom that discretion should be left, and you will find in that Report the origin of the present "Printing Committee;" it is at the bottom of page 23. I freely confess that that Committee has not answered the purpose for which we intended it. It was intended to save the Speaker as much trouble as possible, by having from him regularly a Report of applications for Papers, which would have guided a good deal the orders to the printers; and it was further intended that that Committee should meet at least once a week. You observe, it is to this effect, "Your Committee therefore recommend that The House do appoint for the present Session, and at the commencement of each succeeding one, a Select Committee of eight Members, who shall have power to suggest for the consideration of The House what Documents shall be periodically presented."

1843. It is in the Report stated, that you recommend the Committee should meet once a week at least, at page 23; was that the resolution?—Yes, that was the intention, with the view of having a constant superintendence of all the Returns and Papers; and it was intended that, with regard to any Papers of doubtful utility, The House should not order them to be printed till those Papers should come before the Committee. For a considerable time that was attended to, but it has fallen into disuse; I think too much so, as a matter of course. Every Paper, without its being considered how far it is of a local or general tendency, is printed, and thus the printing has increased to a very great extent. It was to limit that expense in some degree, and to give the Committee the power of abstracting, which you will observe is the latter part of the resolution, whether we should print *in extenso* or by way of abstract, as may be best calculated to convey to The House the requisite information. That recommendation has been

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been partly acted upon, and Mr. Vardon is the officer appointed by the Speaker to do that duty: I have seen a statement of as much as 10,000 *l.* saved by making the abstract in one Session, not only saving expense, but giving the facts much more convenient to the individual as a reference. Where certain tables take up a great deal of time, they have been reduced by Mr. Vardon from time to time, and I think it may be carried to a much greater extent with great advantage.

1844. That abstract has been only carried into effect in the case of returns, not in regard to evidence before Committees?—Never with evidence; it was thought that the evidence might be liable to partial garbling; and I am of the same opinion now as the Committee then was, that to meddle with evidence, however confused it may be, would be most dangerous, as a single word or phrase very often turns the meaning of the sentence; and to show how important that is, I may mention, that the practice which at that time existed of allowing witnesses to have their evidence in manuscript has been discontinued: at that time it was expected that by submitting the evidence to witnesses for correction in manuscript, there would only be one correction and one printing. But such became, I must say, so great an abuse, that on one occasion, in a Committee where I was, the evidence was sent to an individual, and returned almost diametrically opposite, almost every question. In other cases the manuscript evidence was detained for weeks, and in one case not returned in that Session of Parliament. There were numerous instances of that kind which came to the knowledge of the Committee. I have been a member of almost every Committee with regard to printing in the House, and the abuse became so manifest, that the Committee recommended that no person should be allowed to touch a word of their manuscript evidence. I may mention, that the present practice of printing whatever is taken down, and allowing the witness, under the direction of the Chairman, to correct his evidence, must be attended with advantage; as the rule laid down, if I recollect rightly, is to this effect, that no individual witness shall make any correction which shall alter the opinion he had given before the Committee, without the sanction of the Chairman; and that where a real difference exists, he shall be called before the Committee to answer questions, if any should arise out of the different answers that he has given. However, this is rather a deviation from the inquiry before the Committee. I will come back to the sale of the Papers recommended by that Committee. The experiment that had been made by order of the Speaker after the year 1833 was so satisfactory, that since then the sale has gone on. Notwithstanding the Returns of the sale of the Papers that have been laid before the Committee, there has been a further great accumulation. I do not know exactly what number of copies are now in store, but I have before me the Return in 1835 that was laid before that Committee. There were 13,100 different Papers in store, and the number of copies in the aggregate amounted to 2,175,500, as the Appendix, No. 6, to their Report shows. In consequence of that immense number, the recommendation that I have read was intended to enforce the sale and the distribution, because the information in these Papers that was desirable to be given was not only kept back, but it required an expense of 772*l.* for storehouse rent to take care of those accumulated Papers; so that, looking at the advantage to the public by the distribution, the expense of the great accumulation, and further, with the view of putting an end to printing, as much as possible, more than should be required, were the grounds upon which the Committee proceeded. I see no reason to alter that opinion, by what has since passed, except to state, that the sale has not put in possession of the country the information which the Committee thought would be useful, and which I still think ought by some means to be before the public. I understood this Committee has been appointed to consider in what way those stores of information can be made most useful; and it is to that which I should wish now, having stated the past course, more immediately to direct attention.

1845. Can you tell the Committee, before you enter into that, whether this recommendation of the Committee, that the books should be purchased for the public libraries and reading rooms, has been carried into effect; have the public availed themselves of it?—I believe not, and that induces me to offer an opinion, maturely considered. It will appear in some part of the Report, that a proposition was made, that the Papers should be distributed gratis.

1846. In 1835?—Yes; we found that on an average of the 658 copies sent to Members, a very large proportion of them found a sale in an indirect way.

There

There are individuals in London who buy up, as waste paper, a large proportion of the copies that are sent to Members, and these are purchased by libraries and individuals; and it is but a small portion of the Members of The House, as far as I have been able to learn, who keep their Papers.

1847. I believe you do?—I have the whole from 1817; there is not a volume wanting. I believe I may say that there are very few Members indeed who keep any but those immediate Reports and Papers connected with their own immediate pursuits. Now that leads me to the opinion, that the Committee was right in objecting to the delivery of Papers free of expense. Yesterday a copy of the evidence of Mr. Morton before this Committee was sent to me, and I almost entirely agree with Mr. Morton; his opinions are in accordance with my own observation. For example: of those public bodies from whom applications have come to be supplied with copies of the Parliamentary Papers, Mr. Baines, who has taken a deal of trouble with regard to mechanics' institutions, states that there were 700 mechanics' institutions. A good many have died a natural death; but he says that there are of his own knowledge 120 mechanics' institutions in Yorkshire, as part of that 700, having 20,000 members; and I cannot learn that any of them have purchased sets of Papers. Now the result of my observation is, that a great number of mechanics' institutions have died and others are dying; because they are not self-supporting, and you cannot in my opinion maintain for any long period any institution unless there are the seeds of self-support in it; that is, objects of utility, that will induce a sufficient number of persons to interest themselves in its support, as members, by their subscriptions. It is on that ground that, if you are to give gratis sets of Parliamentary Papers, sought for in the number of petitions before The House, in the first place, there would be no accommodation to receive a large portion of the volumes, nor would one in 20 of the Papers be of use to all of them; therefore the Committee wisely determined that we could not distribute the Papers in sets. The question then was, Can we make selections? My own opinion was, and still is, that we cannot make a selection that will suit all institutions, the pursuits and objects of different societies in different parts of the country are so different; that is the best course we could adopt to make the accumulating information available for the public. The opinion of the Speaker is the same as I have stated: that no selection can be made, with any advantage, that will apply to all; that no Papers should be given away for nothing, except under very particular circumstances, viz., that of applying for particular copies by institutions for information immediately connected with their district; he has never refused, on my bringing before him, any application from any society, nor will he refuse to any mechanics' or public institution, provided there is a place where the papers can be deposited and taken care of. I have come to the conclusion that you cannot make any selection that will answer all; you cannot anticipate the wants of the community; and therefore the difficulty immediately meets you, how are the numerous associations, reading-rooms, and libraries to obtain the Papers? All the reading-rooms that have applied and consider they are capable of receiving the Papers, would take such a number that it would require a large printing establishment. I therefore think that you ought to adopt the conclusion of the Committee as reported in 1835, of not giving sets of the Papers away; and that some price, however small, ought to be fixed. I have had submitted to me two or three propositions at different times, chiefly from editors of periodical papers, newspaper editors, that they should be allowed copies of the Papers they should require for publication at a half or a third, or some modified rate.

1848. That we should reprint them?—No, except in emergencies; where the Speaker finds that the subject is one of general interest. There has been 8,000 or 10,000 copies of an article printed when the demand existed, and I am disposed to think on matters of great public interest that that would be the best course: for instance, there was a Report ordered to be printed by The House the other day from the Society of Arts respecting mechanics' institutions, of the most important useful nature. I should rather think that 10,000 copies of that might be printed with great advantage; but the Speaker has always regulated the number by the wants at the time.

1849. Mr. *Ewart.*] What do you say the particular rate of charge should be; I thought I heard you say 1*d.*?—A penny is the present sale price; a penny per sheet was the amount fixed in 1835, but that might be modified so as to

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reduce the amount to a farthing if you please; and it ought to be left for each institution to make the requisition. The Speaker directs the printers to keep from 50 to 80 copies, to be in use for Committees and future proceedings of The House; and all above that number may be sold; and wherever there are Papers in store above that number, then the different institutions, each according to their wants, for that I hold to be the point that should regulate it, should be allowed to have them at a very reduced rate; that is, as regards the Papers that are in store, and as regards all future publications, the utility from them would depend on their early publication. I know many instances in which the most important information, by being kept for a Session or two Sessions, comes out in a large mass, and becomes literally useless. In the first place the whole volume is expensive to purchase, and no doubt it requires courage for a man to look through some of the heavy folios of evidence. In every Committee where I have been a Member, I have urged the printing of the evidence from time to time, weekly if possible, that it might be read when the interest is fresh.

1850. Would that have the additional effect of calling public attention to the particular subject of discussion?—I was about to state a most important example, that in 1824, at the time the Combination Laws were under consideration. The Committee, which was then not limited as it is now to 15 Members, but consisted of 52 or 53; the whole of the working classes were interested in it; there were delegates from different parts of the country, and the Committee printed their evidence weekly, which circulated through the whole country, and did more to put down the absurd and obsolete opinions that were then entertained by the working men as to the evil effects arising from those combinations, and enabled the Committee, at the end of the inquiry, which was continued to within 10 days of the termination of the Session, so completely to satisfy the working classes, and the masters also, who were equally erroneous in many of their opinions, to recommend immediate legislation. The result was the adoption of 29 Resolutions of facts, and the last was for the Chairman to bring in a Bill to repeal all the Combination Laws, and also to repeal the Act which punished any English workman residing abroad by a fine of 500 *l.* The Resolutions were to repeal that Act, the Act against the exportation of machinery, and the Combination Laws; I brought in three Bills for that purpose; the first, setting artisans free to live where they liked, and do as they liked, and that passed without a word of opposition. The Act for repealing the Combination Laws, so completely were both masters and men acquainted with the whole of the evidence before the Committee, passed both Houses without one division. But the Act for the repeal of the prohibition of the export of machinery was opposed and was withdrawn.

1851. The circulation of the evidence weekly caused the change of opinion?—Yes.

1852. *Chairman.*] Did you in the course of that Committee, obtain any additional information that you might not otherwise have obtained in consequence of the circulation?—We had, towards the close, information brought up by parties, to meet, as it were, the erroneous statements that had been published early; and it was in that way that I considered that evidence the most complete that any Committee ever received; and it was attended with these results. I may exemplify it in the same manner with what is going on now. When the Income-tax Committee sat in 1851, the Committee being against my views, when the public was anxious for information, I was taken ill at the end of the Session, and was obliged to leave the House; and the Committee refused to report any evidence that Session. The consequence was, that nobody up to this hour has ever read the evidence, except parts that appeared in a newspaper. When we met this year, it came out in a large mass, and there it lies; and nothing is more painful than to hear men getting up in the House, and elsewhere, and speaking of the opinions brought before the Committee, when they have not read the evidence, otherwise they would not make such mistakes. I only mention that as a strong argument in favour of the frequent publication that Mr. Morton recommends. I also agree with him that every Committee-room should be open to the public press; and I have never been in the chair of any Committee that I have not allowed the room to be open. As the result of my own observations, with two or three exceptions, I have never known any case where individual interest was not affected by this periodical publication. I am clearly, therefore, of opinion, as regards the evidence, that you should allow

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allow it to be reported and published from time to time; and if you will allow it, further, to be sold to the editors of public newspapers and to public journals at a reduced rate, it will make the information of what passes in the House of Commons much more convenient for public reading than that which occurs from our Minutes; and it is on that account that I have always thought frequent periodical publication of great importance.

1853. You think that they would subscribe?—My own opinion is, that they would willingly subscribe, and I have had a number of applications. Mr. Morton makes that statement, and I entirely concur. I would say now, there is an instance, with regard to the Committee on Indian Affairs; if the evidence taken in the last Session had been published from week to week, or published this year, at the commencement of the Session, it would have tended in a great degree to enable the public to judge on the very important question, that of renewing the government of India in the India Company or not. I had a letter by the last mail from Bombay, from Dr. Buist, and another from Calcutta, each stating how sorry they are that they are not at hand so as to afford information and explanation as to the first year's evidence, which they could have done with the greatest ease if that system of periodical publication at the time were adopted. I have turned the matter over in every way, and I cannot see any objection to it. If that course had been adopted, at this hour I should have had some very important evidence to produce before the Committee. The mail, for example, goes out to-day to India, and an answer might come in before the Committee closes its sitting; and if, by taking this course, it would be so useful as regards distant parts, how much more so would it be useful to inform the public mind in every way in this country. I differ probably from many persons as to the value of the information received before Committees of this House; I think that there is very often information obtained that would not in any way, by any publication or any other means, be brought before the public; and that that information is often of great importance, looking to the general interests of the community. I, therefore, am friendly to every means by which publicity can be given to, and selection can be made from the evidence; but as regards the Reports and Evidence being given free, in no case would I agree to it, unless it shall appear that it is to an establishment where it can be kept as a record. In that case I should be disposed to yield very much.

1854. What do you say as to public libraries?—Wherever libraries are established, with a fund to maintain them, I would always make it as one condition that all Parliamentary documents presented to them should be open to the public as a reference.

1855. To all the public?—Yes. I think Mr. Morton maintains that in those establishments all these Parliamentary documents would be perfectly safe, and that any selection required by such libraries could be supplied in the easiest manner.

1856. But even to these libraries you would not give them gratuitously?—I think not. Suppose you were to reduce it to a farthing a sheet?

1857. That would reduce it to a very low rate, would it not?—Yes.

1858. So much as not to make it worth consideration?—Yes; it would put an end to the sale of papers for waste purposes.

1859. Supposing it should have been proved before the Committee, that several of these institutions were not in a condition to pay hardly anything for the Parliamentary Papers, though desirous to obtain them, would you refuse them altogether?—No; a selection might be made if you had security that they could be available for the public use. I may mention an exemplification of that, in the principle on which the public records are distributed, and they consist of a number of volumes, published at very great expense. I was one who advocated their distribution to libraries; I do not now recollect all the terms; but one condition was this, that no library should obtain a copy of these Reports without having a certain number of books and some secure income to show that it was a library of sufficient importance, as likely to be preserved.

1860. Mr. *Ewart.*] I think it was the Secretary of State, was it not?—They were to give the order, but we used to get the requisite certificates drawn up; and further, in case an institution or a library should cease, it is stipulated, that the Papers should be returned to store; that was always a condition, but I do

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not believe that any have been given to institutions which have ceased to exist. The Treasury afterwards, on representation, did limit and prevent the issue of any more copies gratuitously, unless under very particular circumstances; but I am not in possession of the immediate orders.

1861. The *Chairman.*] You allude to the order of 1849?—Yes.

1862. Mr. *Ewart.*] The distribution of these Papers was very limited indeed, was it not?—Yes.

1863. What institution is it proposed to be that shall receive those Papers; a permanent institution, or any other institution?—I think to any library, reading room, or scientific institution that has a place for preserving books, with funds to support it; and, indeed, anything that shall give it the hope of permanency.

1864. Mr. *Hutt.*] For instance, a corporation?—Yes; take, for instance, the city of London; there is a public library in Guildhall belonging to the Corporation for the reception of Papers, and for reference at any time. I should consider that entitled to a copy of anything that is given away.

1865. Though it may be supported by voluntary contributions?—Yes; and many of these institutions having funds besides that are required to purchase books, &c. In this case I should; it is, however, a matter of discretion; I cannot lay down any rule.

1866. The *Chairman.*] In whom would you repose the discretion?—I should say that it should rest with the Speaker, assisted by the Committee. There is a Committee appointed, which is called "Printing Papers," every Session.

1867. They never sit, do they?—They do not sit so often as they ought to do, and might do.

1868. You would go upon the same principle that was suggested in 1835?—Yes, I see no reason to alter it.

1869. You would leave it in the discretion of the Speaker, assisted by the Committee?—Yes, and the Members would always have applications, either by letter or otherwise. I think there would not be any great difficulty in laying down some general rule that might be called conditions, such as those laid down at the first distribution of the copies of the Records.

1870. Mr. *Ewart.*] And these conditions should be sent to the applicants immediately?—Yes.

1871. Mr. *Hutt.*] Would it be advisable to get a return from all the different institutions in the kingdom upon what principle they exist?—I should not adopt that course; but leave the different institutions to come in as they choose, and I would then, in every case, require to know the principle. They would come in rapidly enough when you publish the proceedings of this Committee. The publication of the Resolutions of The House will immediately point out to the institutions who are desirous of availing themselves of it. If you were to call for such a return, you would have such a mass of applications that it would be difficult to meet them; whereas, by allowing them to come in by degrees, you would be enabled to carry out better the object which you have in view.

1872. In those that are distributed, would you have some notice, like that which is published by the Record Commissioners?—I forgot to mention that very fact; but something of the kind should be done; some stamp, for instance. Upon every one that might be given I would have some stamp, to show that it was given gratis, and that it is to be preserved for the public use.

1873–4. Would you have any objection if some selection were made of those that were distributed gratis, and if any more required, that a low price should be paid for them?—That would depend entirely upon the adoption of what I suggest, namely, the early periodical publication of the evidence. If the publication were allowed from time to time before the termination of the Session, and before you broke up the type; for the type, the Committee are aware, is maintained standing till the Session is over, and not broken up till the corrections are put; and by the time the Reports are finished, there would be indications to the Speaker or the Committee of what number of copies would be required, and in that case orders would be given, and the whole expense would be merely the drawing off. What I would do, further, would be to indicate in the circular that any society, reading-room, or institution that might require copies of Papers should, before the termination of the Session, or as soon after as possible, intimate what they desire to have. This notice would enable the Speaker, and the Committee to decide what additional copies should be drawn off before the types are broken up.

1875. *Chairman.*]

1875. *Chairman.*] Are you aware that, in the United States, the Congress publishes a very large number of extra copies?—I am quite aware of it I have been in communication with gentlemen from the United States, and also here, and I can state, that no specific number of each paper are ordered to be printed as we do; the order is resolution of Congress to print 10, 20 or 40,000, according to the wants of the occasion.

1876. I should tell you there is a gentleman from the United States in the room?—He of course can state his own experience; I only state that from the information which I have received. I may observe, that the public papers of America circulate information much better than we do, and a deal of information is communicated to distant parts, and of those distributed by order of the Congress, many of them are well taken care of; and I need not say that if we were in a condition, like the State of New York, where they have some thousand libraries, and where the Government grants annually a sum of money to assist every one of those libraries, and also appoint superintendents to report upon them. We might, with great benefit to the nation, do as they do. I have no return before me, but the number of volumes for district use is altogether beyond our belief, unless we had the documents. Let England be placed in the situation in which the State of New York is, and let the same attention be paid to education here as there, then I should have no hesitation in saying that all kind of information, Parliamentary and general, could be extended very far beyond what it now is. My opinion is, with regard to the present state of things, that I would not adopt the plan of the United States of giving to all the institutions in the country which have been stated to amount to 4,000 or 5,000, and who think themselves entitled to receive the papers; I think it would be better to be moderate at first, and see whether those that we do grant will be taken care of. I am confident that the district libraries in the United States have been of the utmost value; I have seen gentlemen from New York and Massachusetts who have satisfied my mind of their great utility; and if the effect of Mr. Ewart's Bill should be to establish libraries on a similar principle in the principal parts of the country, I have no hesitation in saying that I would act on the American principle by giving each of them copies of the Parliamentary Papers; but I would leave it to the discretion of the Speaker and his Committee to make selections, and where required to allow them to print extra papers, to be deposited where it is believed they will be taken care of.

1877. Would you charge any postage?—An arrangement should be made with regard to that, and postage should be paid, so that every institution should know its own cost. I would rather give a grant of money, as is now done by your public departments, than allow franking; they pay for everything; we see every year the amount, and then, in case of any abuse, you can correct it. It is upon that principle that The House recommended, but it has never been carried out, the distribution of Acts of Parliament: 5,000 copies are charged to the public as distributed, but three-fourths of them were thrown away, because they are sent to individuals who take no care of them, instead of being, as by the Resolution of 1801, preserved as a record in every court. In consequence of the abuse, the Committee recommended that no institution should receive anything free, but that any Acts they had they should pay for, and thus none would be required which were not wanted.

1878. Probably you think that a small amount of charge would prevent them asking for things they do not want?—Entirely; that is my view.

1879. I did not exactly understand you when you said that you thought there was more circulation by the American papers than by the English?—They publish all their Acts of Parliament in the newspapers; I have got papers in from every part of the Union, containing the whole Act or extracts from them, and thereby directing the public attention to every Act of Congress.

1880. Do you believe that would be done in this country?—Yes, it would, to a great extent.

1881. *Mr. Hutt.*] Would it prevent the sale of those papers which were given away by having the paper of a particular tint?—If you decide that Members should have a copy, I think it would not be right to interfere with the Members as to what they should do with that which is their own property; I think that a very small price ought to be fixed in order to get the books out

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of the fishmonger and butter shops into the hands of people who wanted them.

1882. As to the sale of these books, the difficult matter is to prevent the servants from selling, is it not?—That is a private matter.

1883. But I mean, would they not get more into the different institutions if the servants had not the power of selling them?—I think they would be in many cases entirely lost; and often, when I cannot get a Paper in the public store, I have got them at shops where they are bought from the servants of Members; and men go about and supply houses in London; mercantile houses get Papers from them that they cannot get now; often because they are out of print; I know no objection to a gentleman doing as he pleases with his own.

1884. It would not interfere at all with the distribution of one copy?—Not at all.

1885. *Chairman.*] Before your Committee on Printing Papers, evidence was taken, I believe, as to the best arrangement of type-printing?—Yes.

1886. What was it?—Here are 20 specimens of printing of different kinds. If you turn to the Appendix of the Second Report "Printing Papers," you will see a specimen from public statutes; for example, that column is much larger, and if I recollect rightly, the opinion of the reader was, that he could read three of them in the time of one, because he lost his place; I think there is much to be done yet in that respect; but I would refer to the evidence on that subject.

1887. Have you looked into the question of octavo or quarto being the size?—Yes; we gave a decided opinion, and were of opinion that the Parliamentary Papers should, as a general rule, be done in octavo.

1888. You stated that you did not think a selection could be made to suit all institutions; I suppose you meant that if it was in agricultural, manufacturing, or commercial districts, the wants would be different?—Quite so. What I have wished very much to be attended to are the Financial Accounts; they are very little attended to, because they are very expensive to be reprinted by the public Papers, and it is not in one institution in 20 that you can get a copy of the annual Finance Accounts.

1889. The Finance Accounts, you say?—Yes; in such a place as Manchester, and, in fact, in every town where there is a library, every member ought, in my opinion, to be able to refer at all times to copies of these.

1890. Do you think that a copy should be made immediately that they are printed, or at stated times?—When the Committee and the Speaker shall decide as to what institutions are entitled to receive them, then I think the sooner they are sent the better; of course that is matter of regulation, and may be easily considered. I am not aware that I have anything else to add, only that what Mr. Morton says I generally agree with; but although it has been recommended that no rule could be laid down with regard to distribution, I would press more than anything else that it should take place as speedily as possible; and, if any proof can be wanting of the interest that is now taken, and of the utility to be expected from the publication of evidence, that of the Dockyard Committee is a proof.

1891. Mr. *Ewart.*] Supposing a society applied for one of these Reports after the time, when the Speaker was gone and the Committee disbanded, as it were, could there be some officer of The House appointed?—There should be some individual; but I would strongly advise applications, where possible, whilst The House is sitting.

1892. Always in his place to attend to the wants of the public?—Yes; I would also add, that the pressure of printing the evidence from day to day is so great that they endeavour to postpone, as much as possible, the publication of Reports. I think, however, that the production of all the Reports ought to be facilitated.

1893. *Chairman.*] If the distribution of Papers to these different institutions were adopted, would you conclude that the sale of Papers should be stopped?—No, because the sale of Papers is for individuals. The distribution is to give a Paper to those institutions where reference can be made by the public; it is on the ground of education, on the ground of giving information, that I put it altogether.

1894. You would not limit the distribution of copies to Members more than it is now?—I may state what has been my practice; every Committee of which I have

I have been Chairman, I have obtained an order from the Speaker for 25 copies; I send a copy to all witnesses, who come here and give their evidence without charge; they are entitled to a copy of their own evidence and of the Report. I have had gentlemen from different parts of the country; they seldom charge their expenses, and I generally send them a copy of the Report of the evidence, because I think the object is to make that return, if possible, to those who have given public information.

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Edward Solly, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1895. *Chairman.*] CAN you furnish the Committee with a list of all the literary institutions and mechanics' institutions in the United Kingdom?—I have a list of those with whom the Society of Arts has been in communication during the last year; the list is far from complete, but this is at the present time the most perfect list that I am able to give. I have divided it into two classes; those from whom we have received a distinct return of the number of members, and those from whom we have not, and where we are obliged to rely on other sources of information. It includes 737 institutions from whom we have returns, and 117 from whom we have no returns, making in the whole 854 institutions; of the 737 institutions, the calculated number of members is 132,768. (*The list was handed in.*)

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1896-7. Have you received a letter lately from the United States of America, respecting the distribution of Papers by Congress?—I have, from Mr. Stansbury, of Washington.

See Appendix.

1898. Will you hand it in?—

[*The following Letter was handed in:*]

Dear Sir, Washington, United States, 1 April 1853.

I FEEL honoured by the application for information you have made to me, on behalf of the council of the Society of Arts, in your letter of February 28th. As I have already assured you, I shall always be happy to do anything in my power to serve the society, which, I believe is doing more for the cause of industrial education than any other association in the world.

I shall proceed at once to reply to the questions contained in your letter, in the order in which they are propounded:

1. Is there any list of the Reports or Papers presented to the Government of the United States, and printed by their order, during the last three or four years?—There is such a list printed each Session of Congress.

2. Are these Reports printed in octavo, quarto, or folio?—Almost all are in octavo; a few very large works, with costly illustrations, have been printed in quarto; none, so far as I can learn, in folio. Octavo is the regular form, and if departed from, it is by special instruction by Congress, in the resolution ordering the printing.

3. What is the yearly expense to which Government is put in the printing of these Reports?—This question I find it impossible to answer accurately. The printing is done by so many different persons, and under so many different appropriations and contracts, that it would require a long and laborious research to ascertain exactly what it has cost. I have made inquiry in the best informed quarters without success. An arrangement has just been effected which will obviate this difficulty in future. A new bureau has been created, having charge of the public printing, and great regularity may now be anticipated in the Returns on this subject. A gentleman, in whose judgment I have confidence, tells me that I may safely put it at not less than 500,000 dollars annually (100,000 *l.*)

4. Are these Reports sold to the public, and if so, at what rate?—They are never sold to the public by Government. They sometimes get into the hands of booksellers, who keep them till they become scarce and valuable and then obtain high prices for them.

The fifth question is answered by the reply to the fourth.

6. Is there any gratuitous distribution of these Government Papers beyond that made to Members of Congress?—The whole distribution is gratuitous; if it extend beyond Members of Congress, it is by a special provision in the resolution ordering the printing. It is understood that they are to be re-distributed by the Members of Congress, in the States which they severally represent.

7. What number of copies in all are distributed gratuitously?—As I have said, all that are distributed, are distributed gratuitously. The number of copies varies very much. There is what is called "the regular number," which is about 1,500; but few documents of importance stop at so small an edition: 10,000 is quite a common number, and some documents regularly go to 50,000 and 100,000; such is the case with the Reports of the Patent Office, in two parts, mechanical and agricultural. When a document proves more important and interesting than was anticipated, a second edition is often ordered.

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8. What public bodies and what individuals, are entitled from their position to receive copies of these papers?—There is a regulation, by which the legislatures of the several States receive the public documents for deposit in the State Library. The several departments and bureaux also receive them by custom. The bureau through which the report comes, usually receives quite a large number for distribution. It is the practice for the resolution by which the printing is ordered, to specify when any unusual direction is to be given to the document; as for example, when the author receives a few hundred copies. The Smithsonian Institution usually receives a number of all documents of peculiar interest, sufficient for purposes of foreign exchange. These are sent, along with its own publications, to the learned societies of the World.

9. Does the system of distribution give rise to any well founded complaints?—There is cause of complaint, in the fact that the documents are often injudiciously distributed. They are often sent, out of compliment, to persons who cannot appreciate them, while those to whom they would be useful sometimes find it difficult to obtain them. Vast quantities also eventually reach the shops, and are consumed as wrapping paper; showing that there is extravagance or dishonesty somewhere.

The whole subject of the public printing is one which seems involved in great difficulty We have tried various plans. A public printer was formerly elected by Congress, and paid at certain specified rates. This was thought to be an extravagant system, and was abandoned, and the contract system introduced, in which the printing was given out to the lowest bidder. This resulted in execrable work, and in severe losses to the contractors, which Congress, in a spirit of equity, felt itself bound to make good. We have now returned to the old system of electing a public printer, placing the whole work under the charge of a new officer, the superintendent of public printing, who is forbidden to have any interest in it. The purchase of paper has also been separated from the printing. A great improvement in the style of the work has resulted at once from this arrangement.

It is believed by many, that the best plan would be, to establish a permanent Government printing office, in which all the materials, presses, &c. should be the property of the Government, which should employ the needed hands, as in private printing offices. This plan has never been tried here.

Thanking you for your kind offer of assistance in my own inquiries, of which I shall be most happy to avail,

I have, &c.

(signed) *Chas. F. Stansbury.*

Professor E. Solly, Secretary of the Society of Arts,
John-street, Adelphi, London.

Henry Stevens, Esq., called in; and Examined.

H. Stevens, Esq.

1899. I BELIEVE you hold the appointment of Literary Agent to the Smithsonian Institution in the United States?—I do.

1900. How long have you held that appointment?—About five years.

1901. Can you state to the Committee what course is followed by the Congress of the United States or the State Legislatures in the publication and distribution of their documents; we will take first the debates of Congress?—There have been several systems in publishing the debates of Congress; at present they are published by authority, under contract, in a newspaper called the Globe. The proprietors of the Globe furnish their own corps of reporters, and receive seven dollars and a half per column for the composition; the Congress pay for about 5,000 copies, and the paper is sent through the post free of postage. No other newspaper is exempt from postage.

1902. Is the Globe a weekly publication?—It is a large folio daily newspaper, but the debates are made up in quarto form, and published according to the press of matter, three, four, or five times a week under the name of the Congressional Globe and Appendix.

1903. Are they published in this form (*handing a book to the Witness*)?—Twenty-nine volumes were published in this form, under the title of Gales and Seaton's Register of Debates from 1824 to 1837, and now they are going back and publishing them under the name of the Annals of Congress, from the establishment of the Government in 1788 down to about 1835, when the Congressional Globe began.

1904. In what form are they now printed?—Since 1835 in quarto form, in the Congressional Globe.

1905. In double columns?—In treble columns.

1906. They are distributed bound in that form to every Member of the House of

of Representatives?—Yes, bound or not, as each Member likes; 24 copies to Members of the House, and 12 copies to Senators.

1907. Mr. *Ewart.*] Twelve copies, do you say?—Twenty-four copies daily, or as often as published, and 12 copies to Senators.

1908. *Chairman.*] Every Member has 12 copies bound in that way, in calf?—No, each Member has 24 copies on the morning of publication, for distribution as he pleases, bound or not; at the close of each Session he has a set whole bound in half Russia for himself; each Senator has 24 copies for the same purpose, one of which is bound.

1909. That is, bound as they were formerly distributed in the United States?—Yes; but the Congress is now publishing a series of volumes called the Register of Debates, or Annals of Congress, beginning with 1789, and coming down to the beginning of this series.

1910. Will those be distributed gratis to the Members of Congress?—They have ordered 2,000 copies, and they are distributed in this way.

1911. Will you state how they are to be distributed?—Each of the 282 Members of Congress has one copy; one copy to the Library of the President; two copies of each to the Executive Departments; five copies to the Library of Congress; 50 copies to the Library of the House of Representatives; 25 copies to the Document Room of the Senate, for the use of the Senate; six copies to the Office of the Secretary of the Senate; 300 copies to colleges and literary institutions and public or incorporated libraries, one to be designated by each Senator, representative, and delegate in Congress; 25 copies for international exchanges—that is, for foreign exchanges—two copies to the Executive Office of each State and Territory; 60 copies to supply the several foreign legations of the United States, to be deposited in and distributed under such regulations as may be made by the department of State; two copies for the Military Academy; two copies to the Naval School; two copies to the Smithsonian Institution; one copy to each circuit and district court of the United States; and the residue to be deposited in the department of State, subject to the future disposition of Congress. These are what are ordered by the Congress; the publisher has the privilege of selling as many as he likes, and they are usually sold at the same price.

1912. Mr. *Ewart.*] At the same price as what?—As the Congress pay.

1913. The Congress exonerating an individual Member by taking upon themselves to distribute a sufficient number amongst the individual Members?—Yes.

1914. *Chairman.*] I will now ask you respecting the Reports of Select Committees and other Papers laid before Congress; will you state what is the system adopted with regard to the distribution and circulation of those Reports?—On a Paper being presented to Congress it is ordered to be printed, without any number being specified; in that case 1,500 copies are always printed of all Papers; if extra numbers are required they are ordered to be printed by special resolution; this is very often done. Of the regular number 1,500, about 500 are put aside, and, by law, are to be collected and bound, with title pages and indexes, within one month after the close of the Session; these 500 are then distributed according to law.

1915. To the Members of Congress?—To each Member one complete set; and they are usually about 25 volumes, bound in this style. There are about 110 sets at present distributed to colleges, historical societies, and public libraries throughout the country, and sets to the different departments and to some of the Custom-houses and other public offices. The distribution varies according to the different works that are published.

1916. This is a copy of the Report published by the Congress; when you say the usual number of copies be published, that means 1,500?—Yes.

1917. Will you just read that (*handing a Paper to the Witness*)?—"December 27, 1849.—Committed to the Committee of the whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered that the usual number of copies of the message and documents be printed, and that 15,000 copies extra of the same be published."

1918. Will you explain for what purpose those 15,000 extra copies are printed?—For distribution to Members of the House, each having an equal share; those, then, are distributed by the Members free of postage to their constituents, each Member being elected for a particular district.

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1919. Mr. *Ewart.*] For what especial reason do you suppose the extra Papers are granted?—For the information of the people. Generally in every Session there are from 10 to 20 important documents of which they vote extra copies, sometimes a great many extra copies, usually from 5,000 to 30,000 copies.

1920. *Chairman.*] This book is apparently a report on the geological and mineralogical formation of the same portion of the States of New York. That would be a book which, from its general interest, would be deemed proper to give a wide circulation to?—Yes; with regard to extra copies I will read, if you please, what was voted in 1849: "Coast Survey Report, 4,500 extra; Report on Commerce and Navigation, 10,000 extra; Annual Message of the President, 15,000 extra; Special Message relating to California, 10,000 extra; Patent Office Report upon Agriculture (of which I have a volume here), 100,000 extra; Patent Office Report on Mechanics, 50,000 extra."

1921. Mr. *Ewart.*] That contains a vast variety of useful information?—Yes, that is one of the volumes in 1849. There were also ordered, in 1849, "Mr. King's Report on California, 10,000 extra; Report on the Banks of the United States, 5,000 extra; Foster and Whitney's Mineral Reports, 10,000 extra; Proceedings relative to the Death of General Taylor, 30,000." Those are the extras voted in one Session.

1922. *Chairman.*] If 100,000 extra copies are printed, to whom are those distributed?—They are delivered in the first place gratis to the 282 Members of the House and Senate in equal shares, and each Member franks them to the libraries and individuals in his own district, and they are delivered, bound in that style, free of all expense.

1923. In any part of the United States?—Yes, or California.

1924. Is any postage whatever charged?—No.

1925. Mr. *Ewart.*] Each Member would have the distribution of 100 copies?—It is dividing 100,000 by 282; almost every Member has a list of the libraries in his own district.

1926. *Chairman.*] Do you happen to know whether these Reports of Congress are much prized and valued in these libraries?—They are very much so.

1927. And very much used?—Very much used; they are of a very miscellaneous character, and there is hardly a subject to be investigated but materials may be found in the Congressional books.

1928. Do they appoint Select Committees for inquiring into the subjects of immediate interest?—Yes.

1929. Is the evidence taken before those Committees printed in full?—Very seldom; I think it is in the case chiefly of disputed elections, or whenever there is party feeling.

1930. There is only then a selection from that evidence that is printed?—It is a sort of Digest.

1931. To whom is it entrusted to make that?—The Chairman of the Committee signs it. It is frequently made by Members of the Committee.

1932. Not by an officer of the House?—No; the report is made by the Chairman of the Committee; and then, if there is a minority report, as there frequently is, (if the Committee do not agree) it is signed by the dissenting Members.

1933. Are there any complaints occasionally of the partial selection of evidence?—I never heard of anything of the kind.

1934. Is it not very difficult to avoid it?—The system pursued there is quite different from the system pursued here; our reports are very much fuller, being more like an essay upon the subject; the authorities are frequently fully quoted, but the evidence is not given in full.

1935. Is it taken down by a shorthand writer as it is given?—Sometimes; not generally.

1936. And it is not printed or published from day to day?—No; not in Committees.

1937. You have heard probably in the Committee to-day a suggestion made that Committees like this should be so accessible to the public, that they might have the means of having copies day by day; that does not exist in the United States?—No.

1938. Are

1938. Are all Committees in the United States open to the public; can the newspaper reporters come in and report?—I think not.

1939-40. The public have no means of ascertaining from day to day what the evidence before a Select Committee may be?—No, except on special occasions.

1941. Mr. *Ewart.*] Not by summoning witnesses?—They always had power to send for papers and to summon witnesses, but they do not generally summon witnesses except in the special committees.

1942. Committees on financial questions, for instance; they must summon witnesses, and have papers before them?—The members of the Committee make the investigations themselves.

1943. *Chairman.*] Does the Congress exact any condition from the institutions to which these Reports are sent, with regard to their being preserved and not sold?—None whatever.

1944. Each institution might, if it pleased, dispose of them?—Yes.

1945. There is nothing, for instance, like this (*handing a Paper to the Witness*) printed in the Report?—No, with the exception of the Statutes at Large. "This volume is public property." The Act of 8th August 1846 for the distribution of Little and Brown's edition of the laws of the United States contains the following proviso: "Provided that the copies of the law thus distributed to public officers shall be held for the use of their respective offices, and as the property of the Government; and that in case of the death, resignation or dismission from office of either of said officers, or whenever their terms of office shall expire, the said copies of the laws shall be delivered up to their successors in said offices; and a printed copy of this proviso shall be inserted into each of the volumes thus distributed.'"

1946. That proviso is inserted only in the copies of the Statutes at Large; it is never inserted, for instance, in miscellaneous papers?—I think not.

1947. Or any others?—No.

1948. Do these institutions make an application to any officer of the Congress to receive publications?—In the law of 1814, it is provided that all colleges and historical societies throughout the country shall receive a bound set of all the documents; also all colleges and historical societies hereafter incorporated. Several laws have since been enacted enlarging the list for free distribution.

1949. But they must be incorporated before they are entitled to receive them, must they not?—Yes; besides those, special applications are made by large libraries not coming under the title of college, historical society, or athenæum, and they generally receive them by joint resolution, and there are many such throughout the country.

1950. Could you furnish the Committee with a list of those institutions to which the publications are sent, distinguishing those which are chartered, and those which are not?—No, there is no such list published.

1951. I presume many of these institutions to which the books are sent are supported by voluntary subscriptions, and that there is no particular guarantee for their permanence?—No, I think there are no such entitled to them by law, but they obtain them through the Member of their district.

1952. May a Member himself select any institution to which he chooses to send these papers?—Yes, and he sends what documents he chooses.

1953. Does he make a particular selection for any of these institutions, or does he send the whole of the documents?—He makes a selection, because of the regular number, 1,500, he perhaps receives but one or two copies, but of the extra number he may receive a hundred copies, therefore he can distribute those much more liberally.

1954. Does he distribute them according to what he conceives to be the wants of each institution?—He is at liberty to do what he pleases with them.

1955. Can you state to the Committee what is the annual expense of printing these papers by the Congress?—That is very difficult, because there are so many printers. The printing is paid for under grants of contingent expenses; but I find that for 1849, 144,000 dollars were granted for the payment of books ordered by the House; besides this, the House sent in an estimate for 100,000 dollars in the contingent fund for printing; that I suppose to be the regular printing, and not including the extra printing. The Senate sent in an estimate

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of 50,000 dollars. Then there was an estimate for the census, of 211,000, which makes something over 100,000 *l.* The public printing costs annually probably above 100,000 *l.*

1956. You think that you may in a rough way calculate the expense which is gone to with the Congress in printing of Papers at 100,000 *l.* annually?—I think more than that, because there would be a great many other works not enumerated in those estimates.

1957. Mr. *Hutt.*] Was the expense 100,000 dollars or pounds?—Pounds; upwards of 600,000 dollars.

1958. What are the Incorporated Societies in America; what do they consist of?—They consist of Athenæums and Lyceums, Colleges, Academies, &c.

1959. Incorporated by the Government?—Yes.

1960. There they are not sent to?—No, unless incorporated.

1961. *Chairman.*] You were going on to state something respecting other books printed, not Congressional papers, but papers printed at the expense of the State?—They are many books wholly or partly printed at the expense of the State.

1962. Who makes that selection; does the House order it?—They are generally published under direction of the Committee on the Library, the Congress owning the manuscripts, and the Congress subscribes for, perhaps, say 1,000 or 2,000 copies; the publisher sells as many as he chooses at the price at which the Congress allows for the 2,000 copies. These 2,000 copies are distributed to the Members and to the libraries, and for foreign exchanges, &c.; sometimes not more than 500 copies are subscribed for.

1963. Are they chiefly works of an historical nature?—Yes; within the last few years Government has published a great many books on scientific subjects; for instance, recently a valuable volume upon the geology of Wisconsin, by Mr. Owen; the Exploring Expeditions into California, Oregon, &c.

1964. Are those expeditions undertaken by the State?—Yes, and the Papers are published by the Government; that is, the Government subscribe for a large number, and allow the public to have them in the regular way, through the trade.

1965. It is not the habit of the Congress to subscribe for a scientific work which any private individual publishes; for instance, on geology or agriculture?—No. Another very important work which is subscribed for by Congress is the "Documentary History;" that is not sold, but distributed entirely by the Congress.

1966. What is that work?—The "American Archives," consisting o historical comments respecting America, from the time of Columbus down to the final ratification and adoption of her Constitution in 1788.

1967. Mr. *Ewart.*] Something like the Record Commission?—Yes.

1968. These are not sold at all, but distributed gratuitously?—Yes; they are bound well, in half Russia, in about 1,200 pages of the volume; that costs the Congress about 25,000 dollars a volume.

1969-70. *Chairman.*] That single work?—That single work, and it will probably cost that for many years.

1971. With regard to international exchanges; does anything else occur to you?—With regard to the Statutes at Large, the system, till very recently, has been in America, to order the Clerk of the House to have them printed. It used to cost the Government about seven dollars a volume; but now, under a new arrangement, since 1845, the Statutes at Large have been published at three dollars and 50 cents a volume (14*s.* 6*d.*), and now 10 volumes are out in this form, stereotyped, published on good paper, well indexed, and distributed at three dollars and a half a volume. The plates belong to the Government and the publishers jointly, and the work is rendered an authority in the courts of law.

1972. Is it sold bound in that way for three dollars and a half?—Yes, the Government takes 1,000 copies of every volume, and then the publishers sell them to the public at the same price, finished and bound, according to contract.

1973. Are those copies taken by the Congress, and distributed amongst the Members and different institutions?—They are distributed by law as follows:

"Be

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the one thousand copies of Little and Brown's edition of the Laws and Treaties of the United States, already purchased by Congress, be distributed under the direction of the Secretary of State, as follows:

"One copy to the President, and one copy to the Vice-President of the United States.

"One copy to each of the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and to the clerk of said Court.

"One copy to each of the heads of departments, and one copy to the Attorney-General of the United States.

"One copy to each of the several States and Territories of the Union, to be placed in the library of such State or Territory.

"One copy to each of the governments of Great Britain, France, Russia, Austria, Prussia, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, Bavaria, The Netherlands, Belgium, Sardinia, Greece, Turkey, Tuscany, The Ecclesiastical States, The Two Sicilies, China, Brazil, Mexico, New Granada, Venezuela, Chili, Peru, The Argentine Confederation, and The Sandwich Islands.

"Forty copies to the heads of departments for the use of their various offices and bureaux.

"Two hundred and eighty copies to the Librarian of Congress, for the use of the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives during the sessions of Congress.

"Four copies to the Law Library of Congress.

"Twenty copies to the Secretary of the Senate, and fifty copies to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, for the Chambers and Committee-rooms of the two branches.

"One copy to the Judge, and one copy to the District Attorney, and one copy to the Clerk, of each of the District Courts of the United States.

"One copy to each of the Judges and Clerks of the Supreme Courts of the Territories and District of Columbia.

"One copy to each Collector of Customs in the United States.

"One copy to each Surveyor of the Customs at places where there is no Collector.

"One copy to each of the Surveyors-general of the public lands, and to each Registrar and Receiver of the land offices.

"One copy to each of the Foreign Ministers of the United States.

"One copy to the library of each Navy Yard in the Union; one to the Navy Lyceum at Brooklyn, New York; one to the Naval School at Annapolis, Maryland; one to the Naval Institute at Charlestown, Massachusetts; and one copy to the Military Academy, West Point.

"And the residue of said One thousand copies shall remain at the future disposal of Congress: Provided, That the copies of the laws thus distributed to public officers shall be held for the use of their respective offices, and as the property of the Government; and that in case of the death, resignation, or dismission from office of either of said officers, or whenever their turns of office shall expire, the said copies of the laws shall be delivered up to their successors in such office; and a printed copy of this proviso shall be inserted into each of the volumes thus distributed.

"Section II. And whereas said edition of the said Laws and Treaties of the United States has been carefully collated and compared with the original rolls in the archives of the Government, under the inspection and supervision of the Attorney-General of the United States, as duly certified by that officer; therefore, Be it further enacted, That said edition of the Laws and Treaties of the United States, published by Little and Brown, is hereby declared to be competent evidence of the several public and private Acts of Congress, and of the several Treaties therein contained, in all the courts of law and equity and of maritime jurisdiction, and in all the tribunals and public offices of the United States, and of the several States, without any further proof or authentication thereof.

"Approved, August 8, 1846."

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1974. I think you quoted the law?—Yes, the distribution is very much like the Debates.

1975. And has that been found of very great convenience?—Yes, because it reduces the whole matter now to a system; the laws are stereotyped, and consequently have been made accurate, and may be reprinted at short notice, as required, without re-editing. Besides being better books, they are furnished at less than half the former price.

1976. Is there a very considerable sale?—Yes.

1977. Both to individuals, and the institutions to whom they were not distributed gratuitously?—Yes.

1978. Perhaps you will make a note of that?—Yes. The effect of this has also been to reduce greatly, and much improve nearly all the printing of Congress; in fact, within this last six months, the whole system of printing in Congress has been revised, and chiefly in consequence of the great improvement and cheapness of the Statutes at Large.

1979. Is it proposed to print the Reports of Congress on the same paper as the Statutes at Large?—Yes.

1980. With regard to international exchanges, can you inform the Committee whether the Congress are willing to make international exchanges of their publications with other Governments?—They have made grants for that purpose several times. In 1849, they granted 2,000 dollars, and, I think, 50 sets of documents for foreign exchanges, and authorised the Committee of the Library to appoint an agent. M. Vattemaire was appointed; but the system, owing to the great expense in carrying on the exchange, has entirely failed. It has now been determined to put the whole matter of exchange into the hands of the Secretary of State and the Smithsonian Institution. The Secretary of State will take the distribution of all domestic exchange, and the Smithsonian of all foreign exchange. It is proposed that the Smithsonian Institution shall receive 200 sets of all Congressional books published or subscribed for by Congress, and distribute them to foreign libraries, with their own publications. I have a list of the Smithsonian foreign exchanges, amounting to about 300, throughout the world; and of these, 47 are institutions and libraries in this country.

1981. I do not think that we possess in the Library of the House of Commons a complete set?—No; I am authorised by the Smithsonian Institution to propose and negotiate an exchange with the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and I am also authorised by the State of New York to propose a similar exchange. Hitherto it has been very difficult to receive the English books promptly and with regularity; besides, the expense has been very great. The Smithsonian Institution is now willing to receive exchanges in London, and deliver all American exchanges in London, free of all expense. The Smithsonian Institution also delivers the American books in London, bound.

1982. Mr. *Ewart*.] You will not insist upon receiving ours bound?—No; they would of course prefer them bound.

1983. Do you put it upon the ground of difficulty in getting English Reports?—The means of transit, the duties, and the want of an agent. Now, having an agent here there would be no more difficulty, if they are once granted.

1984. Are you aware of this treaty which is in progress?—It is now completed with reference to 47 of the learned societies and libraries in this country. Only recently I received eight very large cases from the Smithsonian Institution, containing their own publications and the publications of many of the learned societies. These were addressed to the Royal Society here, by an arrangement; and an order has been granted by the Government that each case, properly invoiced, shall be admitted free of duty, and that, when found correct according to the invoice, the secretary of the Royal Society will deliver them to the agent of the Smithsonian Institution, who distributes them throughout England, Ireland, and Scotland free of expense.

1985. There will be no difficulty in obtaining for the Library of the House of Commons, upon those terms, a complete set of the Congressional documents from the year 1788 to the present time?—There would, in obtaining complete sets, because they are not in print. Many were destroyed when the Capitol

was

was burnt in 1814, as well as by the recent fire; but the Congress would readily grant all they have in print, and they would ask the same of the Parliament.

1986. They would send periodically a complete set from the United States of America, on condition that the same were sent from this country?—Yes, and the same of the State of New York.

1987. If you have anything further to state respecting the publications of Congress, we will take it now?—There are two or three little items that I may mention; one is, that every Member of Congress is allowed to subscribe for 30 dollars' worth of periodicals, on the opening of Congress.

1988. At the expense of Government?—Yes, he not only has the Debates, and all the books published, but the clerk pays for 30 dollars' worth of periodicals such as he may choose to order.

1989. They may be newspapers?—Yes, the "Quarterly Review," the "New York Herald;" any periodical.

1990. Colonel *Mure.*] British or American?—Yes.

1991. *Chairman.*] Do you say newspapers?—Yes; many of them take "The Times."

1992. Colonel *Mure.*] Any that he pleases?—Yes.

1993. *Chairman.*] American or foreign?—Yes, and he receives them free of postage.

1994. May he take the French papers?—Yes.

1995. Colonel *Mure.*] Is the postage included in the 30 dollars' worth?—No

1996. *Chairman.*] Have you anything else to add respecting the Congress?—No.

1997. Mr. *Ewart.*] I wish to know whether this negotiation, on the part of the Smithsonian Institution and the Congress, would include the Reports?—It would include everything; the Journals, Reports, Debates, Congressional Globe, and Smithsonian books; the transactions of most of the learned societies, the coast survey, charts, observational reports, and so forth.

1998. What funds have the Smithsonian Institution at their disposal?—They have now rather more than 40,000 dollars a year.

1999. Is that likely to increase?—Yes.

2000. Is it in land?—No; it is in Government stock.

2001. Mr. *Byng.*] Is there a Government grant?—No; it was the bequest of Mr. Smithson, an English gentleman.

2002. Mr. *Ewart.*] What did he leave altogether?— Something over 100,000*l.*; it was invested at seven per cent., and accumulated for a few years, while they were discussing the question, since then the building has been erected.

2003. Where?—At Washington. They have a net income now of about 40,000 dollars a year, half of which is devoted to the increase of the library, museum, and works of art, and the other half for the diffusion of knowledge through the press; and it is also becoming a sort of bibliographic centre for the libraries of all the States, and for foreign exchanges.

2004. *Chairman.*] It is a great centre of documentary publications?—Yes.

2005. It has no connexion with schools?—No.

2006. Now go to the State Legislatures; do they act upon similar principles with the Congress?—Yes. Take the State of New York, for instance; it exchanges documents with every other State, it exchanges with the Congress, it exchanges with most of the learned societies. There is a standing law in New York, authorising the regents of the universities to exchange with any institution that they think proper.

2007. Can you give us an account of the number of volumes which the Legislature generally publish in New York?—About 10 or 12 volumes a year, but that does not include the special works like the Natural History, like the great Atlas of the State; there are some special reports upon schools and canals, and so forth.

2008. Mr. *Ewart.*] The Atlas is circulated very extensively?—Yes.

2009. *Chairman.*] Do they print a large number of copies as the Congress do?—A very large number, and every document is marked; I think 250 is the usual number.

2010. And of every document of a particular interest, they print an extra number?—

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number?—Yes; I suppose of one quarter or one third of the documents an extra number is printed.

2011. I suppose not so large a number of extra copies as are printed by the Congress?—No, it is frequently from 100 to 1,000 extra.

2012. Do they print the Debates of the State Legislature as well?—No, but they are printed in the newspapers.

2013. Colonel *Mure.*] Is there any pecuniary return made to the State from those Reports?—No; The Natural History is in 15 quarto volumes, and there will probably be several volumes more.

2014. Was that compiled under the direction of the State Legislature?—Yes; all the surveys were made by order of the Legislature since 1842, and are now being published as fast as they can be prepared.

2015. Are they sold as well as circulated?—They are.

2016. I see in the first volume, it states that the copyright of this work is secured for the benefit of the whole of the State of New York?—That was to prevent its being reprinted or abridged without authority.

2017. It could not be reprinted or abridged without authority?—No.

2018. Mr. *Ewart.*] I suppose that many of these works are of such magnitude, that they could not be undertaken by an individual?—They could not be.

2019. And therefore they are done by the State?—Yes, the printing and distribution is a small part of the expense; there have been officers since 1842, with high salaries, making the explorations.

2020. The Legislature undertakes what the Government undertakes, in many of the continental countries?—Yes, several States have also published similar works called Geological and Natural History Surveys, but not so extensively as the State of New York.

2021. *Chairman.*] How many copies of that are distributed?—Not less than twenty thousand are printed, I understand, of the Natural History of New York.

2022. Twenty thousand have been distributed gratuitously?—Not quite gratuitously; they have offered many of them at a dollar a volume, and the buyer gives a guarantee that he is the *bonâ fide* purchaser for his own use; that was to prevent their getting into the hands of the booksellers and being speculated upon. All that are sold are sold at the nominal price of one dollar a volume, but many are given away.

2023. Is it distributed to the Members of Congress, or to the Members of the State?—To neither. It is put gratuitously into most of the academy libraries, but not into the common school libraries; it is also put into many of the college libraries throughout the United States; you find it in almost all the large public libraries in France and Germany, and some 30 or 40 are sent to Great Britain.

2024. This copy, for instance, I presume has been sent to the Library of the House of Commons?—I presume so.

2025. Can you give us any idea of the annual expense of printing to the State Legislature of New York?—I cannot.

2026. I suppose they have an estimate every year?—Yes.

2027. Will you be kind enough to do that?—Yes.

2028. There are a great many school libraries in the State of New York, are there not?—There are 11,600 school districts; of these about 8,500 possess libraries. In 1834 the Legislature of New York granted money for the purpose of establishing these district schools, or town libraries; the Legislature ordered a sum not exceeding 250 dollars to any district that would supply a like sum, so that about 8,500 have accepted this proposition; more recently this plan has been somewhat modified.

2029. And contribute a like sum?—And contribute a like sum. One of the conditions upon which they were to receive this money was, that they were to report annually to the Legislature, setting forth the number of books they have in the library; the text books of the schools; the apparatus that is used, and other details; and an annual report is published of these schools and academies.

2030. Mr. *Byng.*] Are these libraries, then, attached to schools?—They are attached to schools.

2031. *Chairman.*] Adapted to the students?—Quite.

2032. Mr.

2032. Mr. *Ewart.*] Do they contain works of the American and English literature?—Yes; I can give a list of the books; it is in all branches of literature.

[*The Witness handed in the List:*]

The following list is furnished for the purpose of indicating the kinds of books which the Regents of the University consider proper to constitute libraries for the academies of the State of New York; but it is not intended to restrict the academies exclusively to this list in making their selections. If other books are desired, the propriety of allowing them to be purchased will be determined by the Board when applications for the appropriation of money for the purpose shall be made. In the catalogues accompanying all such applications, the selection from the following lists will be distinguished from selections not made from it, by placing them in different columns, with these captions, viz.:

1. Books selected from the list prepared by the Regents.
2. Books not taken from the Regents' list.

Theology and Ecclesiastical History.

Chalmers' Evidences and Authority of Christian Revelation.
Butler's Analogy.
Burnet's History of the Reformation.
Hannah Adams' View of all Religions.
Josephus' Works.
Watson's Apology.
Paley's Evidences of Christianity.
Pilgrim's Progress.
Wollaston's Religion of Nature.
Buck's Theological Dictionary.
Paley's Natural Theology.
M'Ilvaine's Evidences of Christianity.
Prideaux's Connections.

History, Biography and Antiquities.

Bancroft's History of the United States.
Ramsay's History of the United States.
Grahame's History of the United States.
Botta's History of the American Revolution.
Hume's History of England, with Smollett and Bissett's Continuation.
Goldsmith's History of England.
Mackintosh's History of the Revolution of 1688.
Russell's History of Ancient and Modern Europe.
Mavor's Universal History.
Gibbon's Roman Empire.
Ferguson's Roman Republic.
Goldsmith's History of Rome.
Niebuhr's History of Rome.
Spark's American Biography.
Gillies' History of the World, from Alexander to Augustus.
Gillies' History of Greece.
Mavor's History of Greece.
Rollin's Ancient History.
Tytler's Universal History.
Robertson's History of America.
Robertson's History of Scotland.
Robertson's History of India.
Robertson's History of Charles V.
Millott's Ancient and Modern History.
Hallam's History of the Middle Ages.
Belknap's History of New Hampshire.
Hutchinson's History of Massachusetts.
Smith's History of New York.
Eastman's History of New York.
Smith's History of New Jersey.
Trumbull's History of Connecticut.
Keith's History of Virginia.
Williamson's History of North Carolinia.
Williams' History of Vermont.
Bozman's History of Maryland.
Watson's Life of Philip II.
Watson's Life of Philip III.
De Stael on the French Revolution.
Heeren's Historical Works.
Bolingbroke's Letters on History.
Botta's Italy under Napoleon.
Gordon's History of Ireland.
Coote's Continuation of Russell.
Molina's History of Chili.
Southey's History of Brazil.
Mill's History of Chivalry.
Mill's History of the Crusades.
Murphy's Tacitus.
Thompson's Suetonius.
Hampton's Polybius.
Athens, its Rise and Fall, by Bulwer.
Wheaton's History of the Northmen.
Lee's Memoirs of the War in the Southern States.
Schiller's Thirty Years' War in Germany.
Kennet's Roman Antiquities.
Adam's Roman Antiquities.
Potter's Grecian Antiquities.
Archæologia Americana.
Marshall's Life of Washington.
Sparks' Life of Washington.
Ramsay's Life of Washington.
Life of Lafayette.
Franklin's Life and Essays.
Irving's Life of Columbus.
Middleton's Life of Cicero.
Wirt's Life of Patrick Henry.
Voltaire's Life of Peter the Great.
Voltaire's Life of Charles XII.
Plutarch's Lives.
Prescott's History of Ferdinand and Isabella.
Cooper's History of the Navy.
Boswell's Life of Johnson.
Biography of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.
Lempriere's Universal Biography.
Elliott's American Biographical Dictionary.
Labaume's Campaign of Napoleon in Russia.
Sully's Memoirs.

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Jurisprudence, Politics and Commerce.

Secret Debates in the Convention of the United States.
Beck's Medical Jurisprudence.
Blackstone's Commentaries.
Kent's Commentaries.
Federalist.
Debates in the New-York Convention.
Diplomacy of the United States.
Millar's View of the English Government.
Everett's Europe.
Everett's America.
Ferguson's Civil Society.
Junius, (Woodfall's.)
Malthus on Population.
Malthus on Political Economy.
Debates in the Massachusetts Convention.
Debates in the Virginia Convention.
Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws.
Aristotle's Ethics and Politics, (Gillies' Translation.)
Puffendorf's Law of Nature and Nations.
Ricardo's Political Economy.
Say's Political Economy.
Vethake's Political Economy.
Wayland's Political Economy.
McVickar's Political Economy.
Vattell's Law of Nations.
Grotius.
Washington's Letters.
Lord Brougham's Speeches.
Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations, [McCulloch's Edition.]
Bentham on Morals and Legislation.
Constitutions of the States.
Miss Martineau's Illustrations of Political Economy.
The Madison Papers.
De Tocqueville.

Periodical and Collective Works.

Silliman's Journal.
Encyclopædia Americana.
Nicholson's Encyclopædia.
Treasury of Knowledge.
Annals of Education.
The Cultivator.
Harper's Classical Series.
Harper's Family Library.
So much of Harper's Common School Library as is not included in the Family Library.
Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia.
Library of Entertaining Knowledge.
The Penny Cyclopædia.
The Penny Magazine.
The Library of Useful Knowledge, now publishing in numbers.

Arts and Sciences, Including Natural Philosophy, Natural History, &c.

Brande's Dissertation on Chemical Philosophy.
Emerson's Mechanics.
Ferguson's Astronomy.
Good's Book of Nature.
Haines on the New-York Canals.
Keith on the Globes.
Nicholson's Natural Philosophy.
Playfair's History of Natural Philosophy.
Rumford's Essays.
Chemistry applied to Agriculture.
Bakewell's Introduction to Geology.
How to Observe—Geology.
De la Beche's Geological Manual.
Cuvier's Animal Kingdom.
Arnott's Physics.
Bridgewater Treatises.
Cleveland's Mineralogy.
Bigelow's Technology.
Lyell's Geology.
Phillips' Guide to Geology.
Peale's Graphics.
Yale College Mathematics.
Cambridge Mathematics.
Hutton's Mathematics.
Bourdon's Algebra, by Davies.
Davies' Mathematical Works.
Gibson's Surveying.
Gummere's Surveying.
Olmsted's Philosophy.
Cambridge Course of Philosophy.
Webster's Manual of Chemistry.
Parkes' Chemical Catechism.
Beck's Chemistry.
Burritt's Geography of the Heavens.
Wallace on the Globes.
Wayland's Moral Philosophy.
Parkhurst's Moral Philosophy.
Upham's Intellectual Philosophy.
Scientific Class Book.
Enfield's Philosophy.
Comstock's Mineralogy.
„ Botany.
„ Chemistry.
„ Natural Philosophy.
Smellie's Philosophy of Natural History.
Cuvier's Revolutions of the Globe.
„ Theory of the Earth.
Shepard's Mineralogy.
Cousin's History of Philosophy.
Laplace's Mechanique Celeste, (translated by Bowditch.)
Newton's Principia.
Nuttal's Ornithology.
Wilson's Ornithology.
Bowditch's Navigation.
Whateley's Logic and Rhetoric.
Ure's Chemical and Mineralogical Dictionary.
Sir Humphrey Davy's Elements of the Philosophy of Chemistry.
Rush on the Human Voice.
Beck's Botany.
Dana's Mineralogy.
Sganzin's Civil Engineering.
Hassler's Mathematical Tables.
Farrar's Electricity and Magnetism.
Godman's Natural History.

Voyages and Travels, Geographical and Statistical Works.

Bruce's Travels in Abyssinia.
Park's Travels in Africa.
Lewis and Clarke's Travels to the Pacific Ocean.
Pitkin's Statistical View of the United States.
Long's Expedition to the Rocky Mountains.
Parry's First, Second, and Third Voyages.
Shaler's Sketch of Algiers.
Anson's Voyage Round the World.
Boswell's Tour to the Hebrides.
Chateaubriand's Travels in Greece and Egypt.
Clarke's Travels in Russia.
„ Travels in Greece, Egypt, and Holy Land.
Cook's Voyages.
Belzoni's Travels in Egypt.
Eustace's Classical Tour through Italy.
Forsyth's Italy.
John Bell's Italy.
Franklin's Journey to the Polar Sea.
Russell's Tour in Germany.
Heber's Travels in India.
Humboldt's Personal Narrative of his Travels in South America.
Lady Morgan's Italy.
Jefferson's Notes on Virginia.
Johnson's Journey to the Hebrides.
Malcolm's Sketches of Persia.
Mavor's Collection of Voyages and Travels.
Poinsett's Notes on Mexico.
Lempriere's Tour in Morocco.
Porter's Travels in Russia and Sweden.
Schoolcraft's Travels in the North-west Regions of the United States.
Schoolcraft's Travels in the Valley of the Mississippi.
Silliman's Travels in England, Scotland, and Holland.
Carter's Letters from Europe.
Hobhouse's Albania.
Lamartine's Pilgrimage.
Laborde's Petrœa.
Incidents of Travel in Egypt, &c.
Captain Back's Expedition.
Amherst's Embassy to China.
A Year in Spain.
Barrow's Visit to Iceland.
Dwight's Travels in Germany.
Woodbridge and Willard's Ancient and Modern Geography.
Malte-Brun's Geography.
Balbi's Geography.
Brooks and Marshall's Universal Gazetteer
Simond's Switzerland.
Gordon's Gazetteer of New York.
Henderson's Residence in Iceland.
Ellis's Polynesian Researches.
Laing's Voyage to Norway.

Poetry.

Shakspeare.
Milton's Poetical Works.
Pope's Homer.
Dryden's Virgil.
Thomson's Seasons.
Beattie's Minstrel.
Cowper's Poetical Works.
Falconer's Poems.
Young's Poems.
Pope's Works.

Miscellaneous.

Alison on Taste.
Anatomy of Melancholy.
Addison's Works.
Campbell's Philosophy of Rhetoric.
British Prose Writers.
Bacon's Essays.
Beattie's Elements of Moral Science.
Blair's Lectures.
Burke on the Sublime and Beautiful.
Paley's Moral and Political Philosophy.
Burgh's Dignity of Human Nature.
Washington Irving's Works.
D'Israeli's Curiosities of Literature.
Diversions of Purley.
Kames' Elements of Criticism.
Williston's Eloquence of the United States.
Guardian.
Germany, by Madame De Stael.
Harris' Hermes.
Hazlitt's Eloquence of the British Senate.
Locke's Works.
Lacon.
Melmoth's Pliny.
Spectator.
Sismondi's Literature of the South of Europe.
Stewart's Philosophy.
Reid's Philosophhy.
Brown's Philosophy.
Dunlop's History of Roman Literature.
Smith's Moral Sentiments.
Telemachus.
Johnson's Works.
Goldsmith's Works.
Phillips, Curran and Grattan.
Chatham, Burke and Erskine.
Public Instruction in Prussia.
Rush on the Mind.
Seneca's Morals.
Crabbe's Synonymes.
Webster's Philosophical Grammar.
Newman's Rhetoric.
Johnson's Dictionary.
Abbott's Teacher.
Letters to a Student in the First Stages of Education.
Spurzheim's Elementary Principles of Education.
Edgeworth on Practical Education.
Lectures on School-keeping, by Emerson Davis.
Hall's Lectures on School-keeping.
Student's Manual.
Lectures before the American Institute.
Historical Description of the First Public School in Hartford.
Babington on Education.
Education of Children, by John Hall.
Grimke's Reflections on the Objects of Science.
Young Man's Guide.

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Wood's Account of Edinburgh Sessional School.
Taylor's District School.
Schoolmaster's Friend and Committee-man's Guide.
Teacher's Guide.
Library of Education.
Manual of Classical Literature.
Combe on Health and Education.
Young Citizen's Manual.
Wayland's Human Responsibility.
St. Pierre's Studies of Nature.
Anacharsis' Travels.
Drake's Essays on the Spectator, &c.
Hints on Education, by Wines.
Cousin's State of Education in Holland.
Simpson on Popular Education.
Crombie's Etymology and Syntax of the English Language.
Means and Ends, or Self-training, by Miss Sedgwick.
Guizot's History of Civilization in Europe.
Cousin's History of Philosophy.

APPARATUS.

The following articles of philosophical, chemical, and mechanical apparatus, &c., are recommended for the use of academies, in the order in which they are enumerated, that is, their relative values, as estimated by the committee, are indicated by the numbers prefixed to them in the list; so that where the funds of an academy will only admit of the purchase of a part of the articles enumerated, those first named may be first purchased :—

1. Globes, Terrestrial and Celestial, Maps, &c.
2. Instruments for Surveying.
3. Air Pump.
4. Chemical Apparatus.
5. The Mechanical Powers and Hydrostatical Apparatus.
6. A Telescope and Quadrant.
7. Electrical Apparatus.
8. Orrery and Moveable Planisphere.
9. Numeral Frame and Geometrical Solids.
10. Tide Dial, &c.

2033. Access is not confined to the schools?—No; they are quite public.

2034. *Chairman.*] Without recommendation?—In small villages everybody knows everybody, and they do not require recommendation.

2035. Mr. *Byng.*] To what schools are libraries attached; common schools?—Township schools, each township containing about 36 square miles; and each school district contains about four or five square miles; so that there is a schoolhouse within a mile and a half throughout the State, and every schoolhouse has its library.

2036. *Chairman.*] Are those schools supported by the State?—Entirely.

2037. Mr. *Walter.*] Is there no local rate?—No.

2038. *Chairman.*] Are the schools substantial buildings generally?—Generally; formerly they were built of wood, but now stone is generally used.

2039. Is the management of schools left to the control of the State?—No; each district school is under the management of a board of trustees, annually elected by the people of that district.

2040. Are the schoolmasters obliged to undergo an examination by any officer?—Yes, by the board of trustees.

2041. Colonel *Mure.*] By whom are the schoolmasters chosen?—By this board of trustees.

2042. In each district?—Yes.

2043. *Chairman.*] Have you inspectors of the schools?—They have a common school superintendent, who has the general charge of the schools throughout the State, and who makes a report every year, which is voluminous, giving sometimes a list of all the schools, with the number of the attendants every day; the average number, and the amount of money received from the establishment of the school, and the amount they have received the last year, and the increase of the library. They have also county superintendents, elected annually by the people of the several counties, and charged with the duty of inspecting the schools.

2044. Mr. *Ewart.*] Do the inspectors go round and examine the schools?—Yes.

2045. *Chairman.*] Are the masters paid according to the number of scholars?—No; they usually receive about 25 dollars a month.

2046. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Is the instruction purely secular, or is it of a mixed character?—It is secular.

2047. *Chairman.*] No religious instruction is given in the schools?—None; the matter of reading the Bible is left to the local authorities of each district.

2048. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Do people of different religions attend these schools?—Yes.

2049. Do Roman-catholics attend?—Yes; they have done so till very recently, and do still to a considerable extent; but the Roman-catholics are endeavouring to obtain, for schools exclusively under their own control, a *pro ratâ* share of money of the school funds.

2050. Mr. *Byng.*] Was anything settled upon that subject?—No; they have not yet succeeded in their claim.

2051. It is an open question?—It is an open question still.

2052. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] By whom are the inspectors appointed?—By the people of the county.

2053. Does the master have no fees?—No fees.

2054. Mr. *Byng.*] Where do the funds come from?—There is a very large school fund, amounting to several millions of dollars, and the annual income of that is used to sustain these schools; and there is also an annual tax of 80,000 dollars levied upon all their taxable property, real and personal, in the State.

2055. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Are the school inspectorships permanent appointments?—They are annually elected.

2056. Is not the same person, then, usually appointed to the same district?—Very often he is, but not always.

2057. That will depend upon the committee of the district?—The superintendent's county officer and the State officer is denominated the Superintendent of Common Schools.

2058. Do you happen to know whether, in other States, the Legislatures adopt the same system with regard to the publication of papers as the State of New York?—Every State publishes their journals and annual laws, &c.

2059. Mr. *Ewart.*] And do they give the same facility of circulation to them?—Generally; I think it is almost universal now; the States exchange with each other. Great attention has been paid to this within the last four or five years. You will see in the last report on the New York State Library, which I hold in my hand, that papers from nearly every State have been received, and from the report of the librarian we learn that the New York papers have been sent to the libraries of other States.

2060. Are those papers sent free of expense?—Quite free to the recipients; it costs the United States rather more than 10,000 dollars a year to distribute its laws; that is, for carriage, &c.; for the 11,000 copies it costs them nearly 10,000 dollars a year for distribution and publication in the newspapers.

2061. Mr. *Ewart.*] The simple act of distribution, by the carriage preparations, and packing, and so forth?—Yes.

2062. Colonel *Mure.*] Independently of the cost of the works?—Yes.

2063. *Chairman.*] Do you think these Papers are much appreciated and preserved in consequence of being bound; are they equally valued if distributed unbound?—I do not think they would be valued at all if unbound, because we have a very large number of Papers, many of them single sheets, and I do not think that they would be so much appreciated unless they were bound; but still, the great advantage in binding them is, that they are bound uniformly, each series; for instance, The House documents are bound and lettered uniformly, and are always referred to under a given title. There is a full index of each series, and a copy is bound up with each volume. Many of the volumes are as thick as this Journal (*handing a book to the Chairman*).

2064. You do not attach any particular value to having them distributed immediately they are printed?—Yes, the law requires that they should be bound ready for distribution within one month after the adjournment of the Session, but many are distributed unbound as soon as they are printed.

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2065. But they may be printed several months before the end of the Session?—Yes, many of them are.

2066. But they are not distributed then?—Not in bound sets, because it is impossible to do it, they are distributed separately; but then the libraries never think of saving those.

2067. The libraries do not take them till they are in a complete state?—No.

2068. But individuals can always have them?—Yes.

2069. Is the distribution free of postage throughout the United States?—Yes; that is, each Member has the privilege of franking; he must write upon them, "Public Document," and his name.

2070. Have the Members of the State Legislatures the same privilege?—No.

2071. They cannot circulate the documents printed by their own State Legislature through the other States?—No.

2072. You stated just now that the collected volumes at the end of the Session were distributed gratuitously through the other States?—They are, but it is through the public carriers; they are not sent by post, but they are sent in boxes.

2073. Mr. *Ewart.*] By the railway, of course?—By the railway.

2074. *Chairman.*] In a Committee like this in the United States, would the public assemble round and take notice of what occurred when evidence was being given?—No.

2075. It would be a closed Committee?—Yes.

2076. The Committees are not open?—I think they are, by favour, occasionally.

2077. Only by favour?—Yes.

2078. But you do occasionally take evidence as we do here?—Yes.

2079. And in that Committee the evidence taken would not pass from the Committee straight to the public journals of the United States?—No.

2080. As you have adverted to books, and so forth, what do you think the comparative cost of a book of the United States published here and there would be?—I have just been estimating that. The expense of publishing a book in the same style in the two countries, and the same number of copies, is about the same. I think, perhaps, it is cheaper in America; but then we depend in America upon long numbers.

2081. But they are not cheaper?—They become so in consequence of the long numbers.

2082. Without speaking as to the cause of that cheapness, what is the relative cheapness; how much cheaper would it be in America?—Do you speak of the real cost to the publisher?

2083. To the public?—As a general rule, it would be one-third cheaper in America than here; but then there are a great many exceptions to that. There are such books as "Bohn's Standard Library," which is cheaper here than it is in America.

2084. Where there is no copyright involved?—Yes.

2085. Mr. *Ewart.*] You have a copyright in America?—Yes.

2086. I understand that, beside the question of copyright, there is not a material difference?—No. If a work is sufficiently popular here to require a large number, say 10,000 copies, it could be published as cheap here as in America.

2087. *Chairman.*] You are taking the case now of a popular book with the copyright expired?—Yes; but, generally speaking, they are cheaper in America, because we publish a much larger number of copies, the publishers looking for their remuneration from smaller profits and larger sales.

2088. You say one-third cheaper?—The reprinted books are sold frequently for much less; and novels sold here for 31 *s.* 6 *d.*, are sold there for 1 *s.* or 6 *d.* In the case, for instance, of Bulwer's and Dickens' works, which are printed on a very inferior paper, double columns, close type. They are very cheap.

2089. I mean *cæteris paribus*?—The real cost to the publisher does not probably vary 10 per cent. in the two countries now.

2090. It

2090. It is made up by the very great number?—The cost of composition is distributed over a large number of copies, and consequently the cost becomes cheaper to the American.

2091. And they make, or gain, on the extended area of circulation?—Yes.

2092. Colonel *Mure.*] You said, in the early part of your evidence, that the State gives copies of these documents to the incorporated colleges and libraries, and that it would also give complete sets to those afterwards, to be incorporated; how does it manage it; is there a very great store kept on hand, or how would they supply the want, say in 10 years time; how would they be able to give complete sets?—The law says so long as the books hold out; but very frequently, in the case of important works, they have been within the last few years in the habit of re-purchasing copies. Many Members do not care for their copies, and they are sold; and they are re-purchased and re-distributed.

2093. *Chairman.*] Is there a large depository kept by the State?—Not a large one; most of the books are distributed within three or four years.

2094. But you have constantly colleges being incorporated?—Yes.

2095. Have you difficulty in supplying them?—Yes; sometimes they can go back five, sometimes 10 years.

2096. But not so far as to give a complete set?—Not unless they go into the market and purchase the sets.

2097. The difficulty is, I presume, to purchase them in complete sets?—There is not a complete set in existence that I know of.

2098. You heard Mr. Hume's evidence; did you hear him remark that he believed it was the case in America that the newspapers published the Bills and the Acts much more extensively than ours; does your experience of the newspapers of the two countries bear that out?—Yes, I meant to have noticed that; it is required by law that the Secretary of State shall have the laws published in two papers in every State, the whole of them.

2099. Published as advertisements?—Yes, in two newspapers in every State and territory; and there is an annual grant made for that purpose.

2100. Of course that cannot be referred to a greater desire for intelligence of that kind amongst your people than that which exists amongst our own?—No, I suppose not. With regard to the laws, 11,000 copies are distributed by the Secretary of State; and he enters into a contract with two newspapers in every State to reprint the whole of them, and there is an annual grant made for that purpose.

2101. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Are those publications made at the end of the Session of all the laws that have passed?—They are reprinted from a copy sent by the Secretary of State.

2102. Mr. *Ewart.*] As a law passes it appears in the publications?—Yes, shortly after the Session. Should you require a complete list, the only complete list of the Congressional books is to be found in a tabular form in the Catalogue of the library in the State of New York.

2103. *Chairman.*] In our library, American State documents are extremely scanty, can you inform the Committee what number of volumes are annually published?—The Congressional books, as they are called, in thick volumes, are about 1,200 in all, and are now bound in about 25 volumes a year. I suppose there are 500 separate documents, that are bound in 25 volumes annually.

2104. I perceive it is stated in a letter that has recently come from America, that there is very often cause of complaint, from the fact that the documents are often injudiciously distributed. They are often sent out of compliment to persons who cannot appreciate them, whilst those to whom they would be useful, sometimes find it difficult to obtain them. Vast quantities, also, eventually reach the shops, and are consumed as wrapping paper; showing that there is extravagance or dishonesty somewhere?—That is quite true, and they have recently been trying to remedy that; that is owing to the carelessness, or perhaps I may say, the laziness of some of the Members who have received, perhaps, 100 copies, and would rather give them away than be at the trouble

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and expense of posting them. They are at once distributed to the Members, and it is then the Member's fault if they are not distributed to his constituents. The Congress, I do not think, care where it goes to if it reaches the country. If one man does not care about it, it goes into the hands of another. If a library fail, the books are not destroyed, but they go into other hands, and they are quite as useful there as in the library.

2105. Mr. *Headlam.*] How many copies do you think become converted into waste paper?—I do not think a great many.

2106. That is the exception?—There may be some, not bound. In Washington, where Members do not care to distribute them, they are bought up by people who trade in waste paper.

2107. Mr. *Michell.*] Do Members ever apply for a particular document to distribute to their friends?—Yes; they sometimes vote for 100,000 copies, as they did in the case of this work, the Agricultural Report of the Commissiouer of Patents.

2108. They are distributed equally to the Members?—Yes; a Member finds in his hall perhaps 100 copies of this book.

2109. Mr. *Headlam.*] What is the rule with regard to post?—He simply writes his name, "Public Document, Free—John Smith, Member of Congress," and then addresses it.

2110. Mr. *Hutt.*] The opinion in America is, that if they are read by somebody, it is no consequence by whom?—Yes; the question has been often discussed, whether these things shall be put permanently in these small libraries; whether a man, if he receives the first volume of the set, shall also receive a second; but they do not seem to think that is very necessary. The main thing is to distribute them equally through every district in the country.

2111. Are these corporations able to be incorporated upon mere application to the society for incorporation?—Yes.

2112. It is not like our English corporations?—No; it requires a special Act of the Legislature.

2113. Is it easily obtained?—Quite easily obtained; that is, in case of a library.

2114. It is very easily obtained in the case of a library?—Yes.

2115. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] In giving these Papers to Members, it is presumed that they will distribute them to their constituents?—Yes; but many do not.

2116. Has the question ever been agitated requiring Members to distribute them?—No; there are Members who have very often more: one Member will say to another, "Give me 50 of your copies," and that is frequently done.

2117. Does every Member of Congress receive a copy of Reports as they come out, and besides that have a complete copy at the end of the Session?—He does; he finds a copy on his desk.

2118. Is that bound?—No, it is unbound; if he wants another he can generally easily obtain it.

2119. Besides that, at the end of the Session he receives a complete bound copy?—Yes; 500 sets are put aside, and required to be bound, with indexes and title pages, within one month after the close of the Session, and they are sent to him free of expense.

Henry Hansard, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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2120. *Chairman.*] CAN you state to the Committee what has taken place in consequence of Mr. Hume's Report on Printed Papers, in the year 1835; I believe that that was the first time that Papers were sold?—Yes; it was under consideration in 1834, and in 1835 the Committee came to the decision that the Papers of The House should be sold, and the regulations as to the conduct of the sale were at the same time determined. The price fixed was a halfpenny a sheet, ranging over all Parliamentary Papers; the subscription for the set 12 *l.* 12 *s.*, and for the Votes 2 *l.* 10 *s.*

2121. Has

2121. Has the sale of Papers to the public been very large since that?—The produce of the sale has averaged between 3,000 *l.* and 4,000 *l.* a year; there is a Return showing the amounts received to the year 1851, presented this Session to The House, and printed.

2122. I believe there were a considerable number of Papers subscribed for?—The present subscription is between 60 and 70.

2123. Are those individuals or institutions?—A great many of those are individuals; not many institutions, very few indeed.

2124. Could you furnish the Committee with a list of the institutions that have subscribed for whole sets of Papers?—Yes; I think that they will be found to be very few.

2125. There has been no Return of them?—No Return.

2126. Do editors of newspapers subscribe?—Yes.

2127. Will you give us a list of the newspapers that subscribe for the whole sets?—The subscribers in town for the present Session for sets of Parliamentary Papers are 43, and in the country 24. *See* Paper (A.) annexed.

2128. In towns, do you say?—In town; in London.

2129. Are those clubs?—The daily circulation at present is, to embassies, 4; clubs, 6; newspapers, 14; public offices and institutions, 16; Town Councils, 4.

2130. That is in the country, I suppose?—They are the morning deliveries, including town and country. Mercantile establishments and private persons, 23: making altogether 67. There is also a large amount of subscription received for Votes.

2131. Since 1835 can any Member of Parliament obtain any quantity of the Reports of the present Session, or any number of Reports that he applies for?—By order; if he applies to the Speaker, and that order be granted.

2132. I think the Speaker issues an extensive order, does he not?—Occasionally the Speaker will give orders to Members for several copies, but they are chiefly for Bills. I would beg to refer the Committee to a Paper in the Appendix, No. 710 of Session 1848, in which there is a Return given of the distribution of each Paper of that Session, the Papers circulated to The House, and the Papers given out under the Speaker's order, and the Papers sold: it was made up for the Printing Committee of that year.

2133. Is that printed?—It was printed in 1847-8. I refer to that to show the number of Speaker's orders that were issued.

2134. With regard to the documents and Reports, does the Speaker issue an unlimited order for them, or only specify certain documents?—He specifies certain documents.

2135. He would not issue an order for a number of Reports for a number of years?—He might order for the different Sessions any number of Reports to be supplied.

2136. The Return of those orders issued has been only made up and printed up to 1847?—That Return was made for 1846 and 1847. It would be very difficult to give them for the past Sessions.

2137. From 1847 to 1851, could it be done?—Certainly it could be done, but it would take some time to prepare. We must go back to every issue; it is a matter of labour.

2138. But it could be furnished?—Yes.

2139. Can you inform the Committee what is the annual expense of printing for the House of Commons, and also the paper?—The average annual expense of printing for the House of Commons during the last five years is about 28,000 *l.* It has decreased in the last four years.

2140. That comprises everything except the paper?—Yes. In 1846 the amount of the printer's bill to the House of Commons (this is excluding the Votes), would be about 30,000 *l.*; in 1847, 32,000 *l.*; in 1848, 37,000 *l.*; in 1849, 26,000 *l.*; in 1850, 24,000 *l.*; in 1851, 24,000 *l.*

2141. What is it that has caused the price to have been reduced so much?—One

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—One reason is, that there has been a reduction of price; the per-centage charges have been reduced since 1848.

2142. By the printer?—By a Resolution of the Printing Committee.

2143. Will printing on a smaller size make a difference?—I consider that octavo printing for the House of Commons would be more expensive than folio printing.

2144. Perhaps you can inform the Committee whether the reduction has not also been in consequence of printing an Abstract of Returns instead of printing them *in extenso*?—Yes; the abstracting of papers and printing summaries, instead of printing *in extenso*, has caused considerable economy.

2145. Who regulated the printing in octavo?—It was discussed in the Printing Committee of 1848, and I was examined that year. No resolution was come to, but I received directions, by the authority of the Speaker, to print certain Evidences in octavo; I considered it as merely experimental.

2146. What do you say as to the question of printing in columns? – One great objection is, that the corrections in double columns would be more expensive, and more time would be occupied both in setting up the daily Minutes and correcting the proofs. My father gave evidence before the Committee of 1835, in which he speaks strongly against the adoption of the column printing in the general printing for the House of Commons.

2147. Can you inform the Committee whether, when the evidence taken before a Select Committee is printed, it is always set up in folio?—It is always set up in folio.

2148. Very often, when the whole Report comes out, it is reduced to octavo? —Where set up in folio, it would be issued in folio. In the Session before last, certain Reports were issued in octavo; but great difficulty would be found in issuing the daily Minutes in that shape; setting up in octavo requires more time; it is set up in slip, on a folio page in octavo measure, and then it is corrected in that slip shape; after that, it is made up into octavo shape; it is, in fact, set up in octavo measure upon a folio page.

2149. There is a larger margin?—Yes, it is in short measure; there is an operation afterwards by which it is shifted to the length of an octavo instead of a folio page.

2150. Is the type never set up again?—No; the evidence set up for the day-by-day Minutes is in the same type as the final number worked off; it is kept till the Chairman's file copy is returned, which may be at the end of the Session, or previous to the rising of the Committee. The corrections are made upon the standing type.

2151. How long are these Reports kept in type?—It varies according to the sitting of the Committee. If the Committee sit the whole Session, and we do not have the Chairman's file copy, we cannot finally correct the proofs, and the type is kept standing till the Committee report. If the Committee sit during the Session, it occasionally occurs that a certain number of days' evidence—take 12 or 14 days' evidence—may be sent to us, with the Chairman's approbation; we can then proceed to strike off.

2152. The usual number is then struck off?—Yes; they used to be much longer than they are now. The number of the Reports would be 1,250; but that would vary according to any special directions issuing from the Speaker upon the subject.

2153. If more copies than 1,250 are required, special directions are issued by the Speaker?—That would be a special case, to be submitted to the Speaker; or the clerk of the Printing Committee would give the directions.

2154. In the event of any special direction, what is the number usually printed?—The numbers printed of Papers and Reports of Committees range from 1,000 to 1,250; any excess of that number is the exception.

2155. Suppose there is an extra order; what is the extra number of copies that are ordered?—An order for sale?

2156. An order general?—I should say the utmost would be 2,000.

2157. Only 300 additional copies?—I cannot call to mind a case which has exceeded that number. Where a House of Commons Committee is sitting, and they make their Report, should the same be required by the Lords, instead

of

of that being reset in the Lords, an extra number is worked for them, by a communication with the authorities in the other House.

2158. Supposing it is considered likely that the Reports or Papers presented will be of any special interest, in that case more than 2,000 are printed?—That would be a very rare case; it has occurred.

2159. What is the largest number of copies that have ever been printed?—Speaking of late years, I think that I am safe in saying it has not exceeded 2,000.

2160. What happens if the whole number of copies is sold?—If the type is standing, and there is a public demand for it, there will be an additional number printed.

2161. If it is not standing, is there any instance of your setting it up again?—Such has been the case. If in the same Session, it is done under the Speaker's authority; if not, there is an order of The House that it be reprinted.

2162. Is there not an order that you are not to reduce them beyond a certain limit; I think it is 100?—It varies; Bills are allowed to go to a very low limit; they are very little called for, if at all; I stop the sale at 30 copies; everything is considered out of print at 30 copies.

2163. Mr. *Ewart.*] Only 30 copies?—Thirty copies would stop the sale.

2164. Mr. *C. Bruce.*] Has a bookseller in the country selling Parliamentary Papers any profit upon the sale?—He has the discount allowance, 12 ½ per cent.; one-half of the trade discount.

2165. Do you think that the smallness of the profit affects the sale in the country materially?—I think that the demand is limited for Parliamentary Papers. Probably if the whole per-centage were allowed, it might be considered more worth the while of booksellers to take their customers' orders.

2166. As a matter of fact, are there any country booksellers who keep any Parliamentary Papers on hand?—I should say not. I should say that they are bought upon order.

2167. Mr. *Ewart.*] In the country?—Yes.

2168. In London they keep a stock?—The demand for Papers through the booksellers is very considerable; but, of course, I can scarcely say whether they keep any stock by them. I think, as a general rule, a bookseller in London would not hold stock; there may be one or two who have a certain trade. I should suppose that the booksellers buy under order, and seldom buy upon the chance of sale; I mean the Parliamentary Papers. Probably the allowance of 12 ½ per cent. may be considered small; I believe it is.

2169. Is there any limitation with regard to the stock in hand; would the Speaker's order be granted however light the stock was?—I should report in that case to the Speaker. Before I complied with his order, I should report to the Speaker that the stock was very low indeed; but if he considered it a special case, of course it would be complied with.

2170. Practically, has there been any limit; has the Speaker's order issued when the stock in hand has been very low indeed?—I have had orders when the stock has been very low.

2171. What do you call very low?—When the stock is at 20, I should make a report.

2172. Mr. *Walter.*] Is there no number specified by the regulations of the Act?—There is no limit to the Speaker's orders.

2173. For what purpose would these 20 be reserved, if the Speaker considered that he was encroaching upon the number, and withdrew his order?—They would be reserved; but it would be always at the discretion of the Speaker to issue those copies or not.

2174. In case the number was reduced so low as you mentioned, and you received the Speaker's order, do you consider it your duty to apply to him to know if it was a very pressing case; because, if not, it would be better to reserve it?—Yes.

2175. *Chairman.*] You cannot give the Committee the cost of the paper annually?—I cannot; it is supplied by the Stationery Office.

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2176. How can we get that?—The paper supplied to the House of Commons would be given for the years therein specified in the Appendix to the Printing Report of 1848. I do not supply the paper. It is sent to me when I sign a requisition for that purpose.

2177. Can you inform the Committee whether Parliament exchanges copies of its documents with any other Government?—I can tell you those to whom I send.

2178. To whom do you send complete sets of Papers?—France has two sets; one is bound, and one is not. Belgium is supplied with one. Canada has one.

2179. Has the United States?—The United States has not one; those I mentioned are the only ones.

2180. Are there any foreign public institutions to whom such are supplied?—Not annually; certain papers have been supplied to foreign libraries and institutions, upon application made by them to The Speaker.

See Paper (B.) annexed.

2181. Will you state what those libraries are?—I will put in a list of them.

2182. Do they have a miscellaneous selection, or do they ask for certain Papers?—If I recollect rightly, they were miscellaneous. I think that Germany was supplied, and the Swedish Government also, with specific Papers; but there was no continuous order.

2183. Twelve were sent to libraries?—Independently of those sent annually to libraries of this country, which are the following, viz., British Museum; Bodleian Library, Oxford; University of Cambridge; King's College Library; Lincoln's-Inn Library; Curators of the College Library, Edinburgh; Advocates' Library, Edinburgh; Trinity College, Dublin; King's-Inn Library, Dublin; and the Royal Dublin Society, the Speaker's Order to supply sets of the Parliamentary Papers has been granted only to the foreign libraries and governments given in the list, and to the years named therein.

2184. Then there are no Legislative bodies, or any other institutions, to which complete sets are sent, except France, Canada, Belgium, and some other one?—France has two; Belgium one, and Canada one.

2185. Those are the only places to which complete sets are sent, and those are half-bound?—Three of them are, and the other one is in sheets.

2186. Which one is that?—The Chamber of Peers, at Paris.

2187. Will you state the expense of binding a complete set?—If bound, similar to those which are bound for the use of the library, it would be about 7*s.* per volume.

2188. The mere binding?—Yes, but it is taking it in a rough way.

2189. Do you know whether any applications have been made from institutions in France for complete sets, which before had not been complied with?—For continuous sets, I think not; I am not aware.

2190. But for partial sets?—If they were not complied with, it would scarcely come under my cognisance; I should not know until they were sent to me to be complied with.

2191. I believe the office for the sale of Parliamentary Papers is under your superintendence?—Yes.

2192. Has the demand for Parliamentary Papers increased of late?—I think not.

2193. Has it diminished?—Some of our subscribers have fallen off.

2194. Supposing it were considered advisable to distribute either whole sets or selections of documents printed by The House to different institutions either during or at the end of the Session, could that be easily managed through the office where they are now sold?—The distribution could take place very easily, but not where they are sold. It might be done at the printing-office, in a department appropriated for that purpose.

2195. Supposing it was required to keep a certain number of sets; say some 300 or 400 complete sets; would you have a room where you could keep them till they were distributed?—Certainly; they would be preserved in store, in warehouses,

houses, in a similar manner as the Papers which are reserved under the Speaker's order.

2196. You have some in your warehouses now?—Yes, at the present time; as they accumulate it would be difficult to say whether additional room might not be required, but there is room at present.

2197. In the years 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, and 1848 also, a great number of Parliamentary Papers were sold as waste paper, were they not?—Yes, in consequence of a representation made to the Speaker in 1841, that the annual surplus of copies carried into store required more space than was made by the gradual withdrawal of copies by sale or otherwise, and consequently the warehouses appropriated to their preservation were becoming crowded.

2198. That sale as waste paper does not continue any longer?—It is very slight this year; it diminished last year very much, and I think the previous year. I do not know whether you have the Return, which is printed this Session as No. 63. (*The Chairman handed a Paper to the Witness.*) In 1850 it was 555 *l.*, being a diminution of 1,211 *l.* as compared with the previous year, and it is likely still further to decrease, rather than otherwise.

2199. In consequence of that sale, almost all the superfluous stock has been disposed of, has it not?—Yes, for the most part; where the stock in certain back Sessions was heavy, it was wasted down to a given number: many years back there were some Papers, long numbers of which had been worked and had not gone off, and were remaining in store, and they are decreased down to about 200.

2200. If there were an additional number of copies required for distribution to different institutions, of course the only charge would be the printing and the paper?—The printing and the paper. There would be a slight cost for the transmission and circulation, either by railway or town delivery, unless the parties applied to the office, where they might receive them.

2201. Can you inform the Committee what proportion that would bear to the general expense of printing?—It is a question whether a selection is made, or whether the whole of the Papers are given. I make an estimate that if there should be a selection, and 250 worked, and I take that selection from the demand last year (1852) upon the whole of the Papers, it being a steady demand—(being obliged to go upon some basis, I take 250 as the probable number, and based on the circulation of certain Papers)—it will amount to about 600 *l.* The Papers I give in to the Committee show the weight, cost of transmission by post and rail, and number of sheets, both of that selection and of the whole set of Papers of the Session. The cost, calculated upon the number of sheets there given, would be, for 250 copies of 2,147 sheets, about 600 *l.*; for 350 copies, 1,000*l.*; and for 500 copies, 1,250 *l.*, including, in each case, the estimated cost of paper.

See Papers (C.) (D.) annexed.

2202. What proportion would that bear to the whole amount; would it be a third?—I should say a larger proportion than a third, perhaps about two-thirds.

2203. I understand that for about 1,000 *l.* you might have printed two-thirds of the documents printed in Parliament?—Yes, as calculated upon Session 1852. There was some evidence taken in the Committee, whether the papers should be circulated immediately, or whether there should be a selection, and at the end of the Session the institutions should have liberty to apply, through a list supplied to them, for other Papers. If it is a selection of papers fixed upon, a certain extra number would be worked; but if they are allowed at the end of the Session to make application from the list so supplied, all the Papers must either be worked in anticipation of an extra order, or, which would be a matter of great difficulty, the type would be kept standing to the end of the Session.

2204. I think it was suggested that the Papers applied for at the end of the Session should be purchased?—At the same time a calculation must be made for an extra number of copies.

2205. If it was once commenced, you would not know for the first year or two what number should be printed, but in two or three years it would right itself

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itself entirely, or in a very few years' experience?—Yes; the number to be supplied to institutions would then, I presume, become a fixed number.

2206. Will you put those Papers in?—Yes.

[*The Witness handed in the following Returns:*]

(A.)

SESSION 1852–53.

DAILY CIRCULATION of PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS. (Exclusive of The Speaker's List.)

		COPIES.	TOTAL.
Embassies	French Embassy	1	
	Prussian Legation	1	
	Russian Legation	1	
	Austrian Legation	1	
			4
Clubs	Reform Club	1	
	Oxford and Cambridge Club	1	
	Travellers' Club	1	
	Alfred Club	1	
	Conservative Club	1	
	New Club, Edinburgh	1	
			6
Public and Private Institutions	London Institution (Finsbury)	1	
	Sessions House (Clerkenwell)	1	
	Incorporated Law Society	1	
	Baltic Coffee House	1	
	Wesleyan Mission House	1	
	Bank of Ireland (Dublin)	1	
	Trinity House (Hull)	1	
	City Chambers (Glasgow)	1	
	Chamber of Commerce (Glasgow)	1	
	Chamber of Commerce (Manchester)	1	
	Solicitors' Library (Edinburgh)	1	
	Board of Trade (Hamburgh)	1	
	Liverpool Dock Company	1	
	East India House	3	
			16
Town Councils	Council House, Bristol	1	
	Town Clerk, Manchester	1	
	Town Clerk, Liverpool	1	
	Town Clerk, Leeds	1	
			4
Newspapers	Globe	1	
	Times	2	
	Standard	1	
	Daily News	1	
	Morning Post	1	
	Morning Herald	1	
	Morning Advertiser	1	
	Morning Chronicle	1	
	Spectator	1	
	Saunders' News Letter, Dublin	1	
	Courant, Edinburgh	1	
	Scotsman, Edinburgh	1	
	Advertiser, Edinburgh	1	
			14
			44
Private Persons			23
	TOTAL		67

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(B.)

FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, &c., Supplied with PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS, under The Speaker's Orders.

WHEN SUPPLIED.		BOUND, OR IN SHEETS.
YEAR		
Annually	French, Belgian, Canada, - - - - - - - -	Bound.
1834	Public Library, Australia - - - - -	Sheets.
1842	The Government of Texas - - - - -	Sheets.
1849	University of Göttingen - - - - -	Bound.
1849	Indian Government - - - - - -	Sheets.
1851	University of Tubingen - - - - - -	Sheets.
	FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, &c., Supplied with Journals of House of Commons:	
1836	Bavarian - - - - - - - - -	Supplied in Sheets upon the application of the respective Ambassadors and Consuls.
1851	Swedish - - - - - - - - -	
1846	Greek - - - - - - - - -	
1851	Canada, House of Assembly - - - - -	
1849	Göttingen, University - - - - - -	
1851	Nova Scotia - - - - - - -	
1851	Halifax, House of Assembly - - - - -	
1848	New Brunswick - - - - - - -	
1846	Royal Library, Hanover - - - - -	
1842	Belgian - - - - - - - -	
1841	Texan Government - - - - - -	
1851	French Chambers - - - - - -	

(C.)

RETURN of the WEIGHT, POSTAGE, and AMOUNT per RAILWAY of a Selection from the PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (1852), with a View to their Distribution to Libraries and Mechanics' Institutions; distinguishing the Papers ordered by The House of Commons from Reports of Commissioners and Papers by Command.

	Number of Sheets.	Weight.	Postage.	Amount per Rail.
Papers ordered by The House:		*lbs.*	£. *s.* *d.*	
Blue Books and Reports of Committees; such as—				
Manchester and Salford Education -				
Criminal and Destitute Juveniles - -				
Wine Duties - - - - -				
Coal Mines - - - - -	1,003 ½	58	– 19 4	2*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. to Liverpool.
Finance Accounts - - - -				2*s.* 10*d.* ,, to Exeter.
Savings Banks; Returns - - -				3*s.* –*d.* ,, to York.
Charities; Return - - - -				
&c. &c. &c.				
Accounts and Smaller Papers; such as—				
Railways; Returns - - - -				
Imports and Exports - - - -				
Revenue and Expenditure - - -	287 ½	18	– 6 –	
Board of Health Papers - - -				
&c. &c. &c.				
Papers by Command: such as—				
Chancery Commission Report - -				
Oxford University Report - - -				
Inspectors of Prisons, Factories, and Schools Reports - - - -	856 ½	50	– 16 8	
Papers relating to the Colonies and the Discovery of Gold, Treaties and Conventions - - - - -				
&c. &c. &c.				
	2,147 ½	126	2 2 –	

H. Hansard, Esq.

9 May 1853.

(D.)

RETURN of the WEIGHT, POSTAGE, and AMOUNT, per RAILWAY, of a Set of PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (1852), comprised in the Fifty-eight Volumes in the Library of the House of Commons; distinguishing the Papers Ordered by the House of Commons from the Reports of Commissioners and Papers by Command, the Number of Sheets, and the Bills, Blue Books, and Reports from the Accounts and smaller Papers.

	Weight.	Postage.	Amount per Rail to Liverpool.	Number of Sheets.
Papers Ordered by The House:	*Lbs.*	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Bills		– 5 –	- -	250 ½
Blue Books	59	– 19 8	- -	1,043
Octavo Reports	24	– 8 –	- -	416
Accounts and smaller Papers	49	– 16 4	- -	832 ½
Papers by Command, &c.:				
Blue Books	52	– 17 4	- -	925
Papers, stitched	12	– 4 –	- -	195 ½
Octavos	13	– 4 4	- -	216
Complete Set	224	3 14 8	– 5 –	3,878 ½

APPENDIX.

LIST.

Appendix, No. 1.

Papers delivered in by Mr. Isaiah Can Radford, 14 March 1853:

Abstract of Returns from the various Literary and Scientific Institutions in Cornwall and Devon - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 200

Appendix, No. 2.

Paper delivered in by Edward Edwards, Esq., 3 March 1853:

List of Parliamentary Papers, drawn up, printed, and circulated in 1851, with the view of obtaining them for the Manchester Free Library - - - - - p. 204

Appendix, No. 3.

Letter from T. E. Cliffe Leslie, Esq. - - - - - - - - - - - p. 215

Table containing Answers from Twenty-nine Irish Literary and Mechanics' Institutions - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - p. 216

Appendix, No. 4.

List of Literary and Scientific Institutions and Mechanics' Institutes, in England and Wales, with a portion of those in Scotland and Ireland - - - - - - - p. 219

Appendix, No. 1. - - - - - - - -

ABSTRACT of RETURNS received from the various - - - - - - -

PLACE.	NAME of INSTITUTION.	When Founded.	Name of Secretary.	Town or District Population.	Number of Members.	Prosperous or otherwise.	Stationary, Increase, or Decrease.
Altarnun - - -	Mutual Improvement Society.	1850	R. B. Hicks - -	1,381	9	Declining - -	Decreasing -
Bodmin - - -	Literary Institution -	1843	Henry Drew - -	4,500	75	No - - -	Stationary -
Calstock - - -	Mechanics' Institute -	1852	J. D. Reed - -	1,100	50	Prosperous -	Stationary -
Chacewater - -	Institution - -	1852	H. P. Harvey - -	1,000	49	Prosperous -	Stationary -
Camborne - -	Institution - -	1835	Thos. Hutchinson -	5,000	140	Prosperous -	Increasing -
Falmouth - - -	Mechanics' Institute -	1847	- - Edward Nicholas and E. S. Guthridge.	11,000	150	Prosperous -	Stationary -
Gulval - - -	Reading Society -	1850	Richard White -	100	20	Prosperous -	- - -
Helston - - -	Literary Society -	1850	G. J. Cunack - -	4,000	50	Declining - -	- - -
Liskeard - - -	Institution - -	1832	Wm. T. Hancock -	4,400	140	Prosperous -	Stationary -
Lostwithiel - -	Mechanics' Institute -	1849	Hy. H. Kidd - -	1,800	30	No - - -	Decreasing -
Launceston - -	Ditto - - -	1836	Hy. Short, Jun. -	3,298	80	Prosperous -	Increased slightly
Newquay - - -	Reading Room - -	1851	James Mitchell -	1,000	60	Prosperous -	Increased rather
Penzance - - -	Literary Institution -	1844	- - H. Pascal and John May.	10,000	365	Highly prosperous	Stationary -
Penzance - - -	Institution - -	1848	- - Henry Rodd and Benjamin Wales.	10,000	128	Prosperous -	Increasing -
Redruth - - -	Institution for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge.	1847	Wm. M. Grills -	10,000	130	Prosperous -	Stationary -
Saltash - - -	Institution - -	1851	Thos. Littleton -	1,651	35	Prosperous -	Stationary -
St. Ives - - -	Institution - -	1851	John T. Cock - -	5,000	100	Prosperous -	- - -
St. Austle - - -	Mechanics' Institute -	1852	James Boulden -	4,000	89	Prosperous -	- - -
St. Just - - -	Institution - -	1842	O. T. Tregise - -	2,500	75	Rather prosperous	Increased -
St. Columb - -	Ditto - - -	1845	James Truscott -	3,000	80	Declining - -	Decreasing -
St. Agnes - - -	Ditto - - -	1841	John Opie - -	1,500	35	Prosperous -	Increasing -
Torpoint - - -	Institution for the Promotion of Science and Useful Knowledge.	1840	Robt. Parker - -	2,000	55	No - - -	- - Considerably decreased.
Truro - - -	Literary and Scientific Institution.	1835	H. H. Davis - -	12,000	380	Prosperous -	- - Gradually increasing.
Wadebridge - -	Literary and Scientific Institution.	1838	Ignatius Wilkins -	3,137	73	Prosperous -	- - -
Penryn - - -	Mechanics' Institute -	1850	John Symons - -	4,000	105	Prosperous -	Increasing -
TOTALS - - 25	- - - - -	- -	- - - - -	97,367	2,503	- - -	- - -

Appendix, No. 1.

Literary and Scientific Institutions in *Cornwall.*

Cause of Decrease.	Cause of Increase.	Annual Subscriptions.	Number of Books.	Amount of Debt.	Number of Lectures Yearly.	Amount Paid for Lectures Yearly.	Concerts, and their Results.	Desirous, or otherwise, of obtaining Parliamentary Papers, &c.
				£.		£. s.		
- - Removals, and apathy.	- - - -	1/	20	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	- - Yes; it may be probably the means of our re-suscitation.
- - -	- - -	21/ 10/ 5/	1,000	80	- - -	- -	- - Yes; with profitable results.	Yes.
- - -	- - -	6/ 4/	20	- -	9, Science and art.	- -	- - -	- - Yes; of great benefit, it would induce many to join.
- - -	- - -	4/	50	- -	14, Literary and scientific.	- -	- - -	Yes, decidedly.
- - -	To the lectures -	10/ 6/	300	100	12, Literary and scientific.	- -	- - Yes; which have added to our members, and increased the funds.	- - Yes; great benefit would arise.
- - -	- - -	10/ 5/	1,100	- -	25, Miscellaneous	20 –	Yes, beneficial -	- - Yes; great benefit would arise.
- - -	- - -	Donations -	240	- -	- - -	- -	- - Yes; with most satisfactory results.	Yes.
- - General apathy, and want of interest.	- - -	5/	100	- -	25, Miscellaneous	15 –	- - Yes; by far the most productive of all entertainments.	Doubtful.
- - -	- - -	8/ 5/	680	- -	23, Literary, and very few scientific.	20 –	- - No; but intend trying them.	- - Yes; from the great statistical information they contain.
- - Young men leaving for other towns.	- - -	6/	287	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	No.
- - -	Extra exertion -	20/ to 2/6	200	5	12, Literature & science.	9 9	Yes, beneficial -	- - Yes, most decidedly.
- - -	- - Owing to the nobility making it a fashionable watering place.	8/ 4/	110	- -	Few; poetry, &c.	- -	- - No; but every probability of having them.	- - Yes, of course.
- - -	- - -	2/2	Few -	- -	30, Scientific and literary.	55 –	- - Yes, many; and they greatly aid the funds.	Yes.
- - -	- - To the lectures; Institution better understood.	10/ 4/	380	18	26, Miscellaneous	- -	- - -	- - Yes; appropriate Papers would be beneficial.
- - -	- - -	21/ 6/	550	4	18, Miscellaneous	10 –	- - -	- - Yes; if obtained gratis.
- - -	- - -	10/	220	- -	9, Literary and scientific.	9 –	Yes; beneficial -	Yes.
- - -	- - -	10/	450	- -	26, Miscellaneous, have never had professional lecturers.	5 –	- - -	Yes.
- - -	- - -	6/	200	- -	26, Science, education, &c.	13 –	- - -	Yes, decidedly.
- - -	- - A gradual increasing appreciation of advantages, and perhaps to an additional number of lectures.	10/ 6/	550	- -	25, Literary and scientific.	20 –	- - Yes; funds slightly benefited.	Yes; a selection.
Don't know -	- - -	4/	200	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	Yes.
- - -	- - General prosperity in mining.	6/ 4/	250	- -	6, Miscellaneous	- -	- - -	Yes, decidedly.
- - Income absorbed, from debt on building.	- - -	21/ 8/8	400	285	Uncertain - -	6 6	- - Yes; with profitable results.	Yes.
- - -	- - Popular entertainments.	10/ 6/	1,000	20	30, Miscellaneous	75 –	Yes; beneficial -	Yes.
- - -	- - -	21/ 10/6 8/	560	- -	17, Literature & science.	2 –	- - Yes; want of amateurs, profits swallowed up by professionals.	Yes; selection.
- - -	- - Good management.	10/	250	- -	13, Miscellaneous	- -	Yes; profitable -	Yes.
- - -	- - -	- - -	9,117	£. 512	- - £.	259 15		

ABSTRACT of RETURNS received from the various - - - - - - -

PLACE.	NAME of INSTITUTION.	When Founded.	Name of Secretary.	Town or District Population.	Number of Members.	Prosperous or otherwise.	Stationary, Increase, or Decrease.
Ashburton - -	Mental Improvement Society.	1851	John Hele - -	3,500	50	- Tolerably prosperous.	Decreased -
Barnstaple - -	Literary and Scientific	1845	J. R. Chanter - -	12,000	300	No - - -	Stationary -
Bickleigh - - -	Mutual Improvement Association.	1852	W. R. Weeks - -	400	8	No - - -	Decreased -
Collumpton - -	Mental Improvement Society.	1849	James C. Mitchell -	4,000	52	Prosperous -	- Slightly increasing.
Crediton - - -	Literary Society and Mechanics' Institute.	1832	John Bickford - -	6,000	150	Rather prosperous	Slightly decreased
Chudleigh - -	Literary Society -	1849	J. Prowse - -	2,500	30	Prosperous -	Increasing -
Dawlish - - -	Literary and General Knowledge Society.	1850	John S. Hoop - -	3,000	120	Prosperous -	Decreased -
Devonport - -	Mechanics' Institute	1825	- U. H. King and J. C. Radford.	40,000	1,278	Prosperous -	Increasing -
Devonport - -	Civil and Military Library.	1827	Wm. Chapman -	40,000	80	- Tolerably prosperous.	Increasing -
Devonport - -	Working Men's Institution.	1850	Wm. Sampson - -	40,000	70	No - - -	Decreased -
Exeter - - -	Literary Society -	1841	R. C. Halse - -	40,000	750	Prosperous -	Increased -
Honiton - - -	Literary Institution -	1847	Joseph Wakeford -	4,000	60	Prosperous -	- - -
Hatherleigh - -	Literary Institution -	1852	John Pearse - -	1,710	71	Prosperous -	Increasing -
Ivybridge - - -	Institute and Reading Room.	1853	T. Blackmore - -	1,000	55	- - -	- - -
Kingsbridge and Dodbrooke.	Literary and Scientific Institution.	1843	W. H. Prouse - -	3,000	200	Declines to answer	Increased recently
Modbury - - -	Institution - -	1840	-- Wm. Cornish and John Luscombe.	2,000	100	- Tolerably prosperous.	Increasing -
Moretonhampstead -	Society for the Promotion of Knowledge.	1844	W. White - -	3,000	35	Rather prosperous	Increasing -
Newton Abbot - -	Society for the Attainment of Useful Knowledge.	1837	Chas. Rees - -	4,000	230	Prosperous -	- Increased greatly of late.
Plymouth - - -	Mechanics' Institute -	1823	L. L. Jewett - -	51,000	1,100	Prosperous -	Increasing -
Plympton, St. Mary -	Mechanics' Institute	1853	G. Stuttaford - -	950	80	- - -	- - -
Prince Town - -	Literary and Mechanics' Institution.	1852	G. L. Aborn - -	1,000	30	-- It has scarcely been tried.	Decreased -
Salcombe - - -	Reading and Lecture Society.	1851	Samuel Pearce - -	2,000	39	No opinion -	Rather decreased
St. Budeaux - -	Working Men's Mutual Improvement Society.	1850	Joseph Pryor - -	400	20	Prosperous -	Increasing -
Stonehouse - -	Literary and Scientific Institution.	1846	-- James Adkins and D. M'Callum.	11,000	180	- Not very prosperous.	Decreasing -
Tavistock - - -	Institution - -	1827	Robert Luxton - -	8,000	400	Very prosperous	Increasing -
Totnes - - -	Mechanics' Institute	1844	William Oldrey -	5,000	156	Prosperous -	Increasing -
Torquay - - -	Mechanics' Institute	1837	Edward Appleton -	13,500	130	- Not as it should be with such a population.	Increasing -
Tiverton - - -	Literary and Scientific Institution.	1848	Geo. W. Cockram -	12,000	150	- Gradually prospering.	Increasing -
Torrington - -	Literary Institute -	1851	Frederick Holwill -	3,500	40	Prosperous -	- - -
Teignmouth - -	Useful Knowledge Society.	1843	W. A. Moore - -	5,124	150	Prosperous -	Increasing -
TOTALS - 30	- - - - -	- -	- - - - -	243,584	6,114	- - -	- - -

(a) Lectures illustrated, most attractive. (b) If they had a Reading-room.

LITERARY and SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS in *Devon*.

Cause of Decrease.	Cause of Increase.	Annual Subscriptions.	Number of Books.	Amount of Debt.	Number of Lectures Yearly.	Amount Paid for Lectures Yearly.	Concerts, and their Results.	Desirous, or otherwise, of obtaining Parliamentary Papers, &c.
				£.		£. s.		
-- Partly in consequence of a distinction having been made in the price of seats, but chiefly on account of the novelty having worn off.	- - -	3/6	100	- -	12 Literary and scientific.	- -	- - -	Query.
- Apathy and deficiency of general literary taste, and perhaps partly from a difficulty in getting different classes to associate together.	- - -	20/ 10/	3,500	- -	6 Miscellaneous	15 -	- Yes; have paid better than literary or scientific lectures.	- - Yes; without doubt.
- - Leaving the neighbourhood.	- - -	8/8	- -	- -	-- Uncertain -	- -	- - -	Yes.
- - -	- To free lectures during two last years. (a)	21/ 10/6 7/6 5/	250	- -	-- Uncertain -	5 -	- - -	Yes.
-- To an impracticable committee, torn by faction.	- - -	4/	700	- -	8 Scientific and literary.	8 -	- Yes, gratuitous; would not be profitable if paid for.	Yes. (b)
- - -	- - -	10/	200	- -	-- Very few -	- -	-Yes; productive of a little profit.	Yes.
-- Persons left the town.	- - -	21/ 6/ 4/	610	- -	21 Miscellaneous	Uncertain(c)	-- Yes; receipts covered expenses.	Yes.
- - -	-Popular management.	20/ 10/ 8/	3,700	3,200	40 Literature, science, and fine arts.	120 -	- - Yes; results most beneficial.	Yes.
- - -	- - Increased accommodation; enlarged Library and Museum; a better class of lectures and entertainments, and constant attention to its interest.	21/	5,000	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	- - Yes; most decidedly.
Emigration, and want of support -		6/	300	- -	16 Mostly scientific	- -	Yes; beneficial -	Yes; decidedly.
- - -	- - Increased accommodation.	12/ 6/	1,500	- -	30 Literary and scientific.	100 -	- - -	- - Yes; some, of course, would be useful; great majority not.
- - -	- - -	30/ 10/	900	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	- Yes; Public Records already supplied by Government.
- - -	- To the lectures, which are novelties in this place.	10/ 6/ 5/ 4/	100	- -	15 Literary and scientific.	5 5	- - -	Yes.
- - -	- - -	4/4 2/2	150	- -	2 Scientific -	- -	- - -	Yes; some.
- - -	- - To the engagement of professional lecturers of high celebrity.	10/ 4/ 2/6	Small number.	- -	24 Literature, science, and fine arts.	30 -	- - -	Yes.
- - -	- Various, one of which, that youths take an interest in the institution.	6/6 4/	1,000	- -	12 Literary and scientific.	18 -	- Yes; not favourable.	- Yes; a judicious selection.
- - -	- - -	8/ 4/	750	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	- Yes; and might cause an increase of members.
- - -	- - Removal of reading-room to a more convenient site, and higher class of lectures.	8/ 4/	750	- -	20 Scientific and historical.	40 -	-- Yes; and pay much better than lectures.	Yes; some.
- - -	- - More popular management.	10/ 8/	300	2,500	40 Literary and scientific.	120 -	Yes; beneficial -	Yes; decidedly.
- - -	- - -	6/ 4/	Very few	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	Yes; many might be useful.
-- Discharge of a large number of workmen.	- - -	10/	120	- -	-- Uncertain -	- -	- Yes; just cleared expenses.	Yes; some.
-- Inattention or indifference.	- - -	5/	300	- -	- As often as they can be obtained without cost.	- -	- - -	- - Yes; very desirable.
- - -	- - To the advantages offered, and to the moderate payments.	2/2	82	- -	-- Uncertain -	- -	- - -	Yes.
- - Inability to supply lectures equal to other Institutions, and general indisposition on the part of the inhabitants.	- - -	10/ 6/	900	115	35 Literary and scientific.	40 -	- - Yes; cleared expenses.	- Yes; and gladly accept them.
- - -	- Popular professional lectures.	2/6	- -	- -	16 Scientific, literary, and musical.	60 -	-- Yes; numerously attended; results most advantageous.	- - No library, therefore no convenience.
- - -	-Great care and attention, with good class of lectures.	21/ 10/ 8/ 6/ 5/ 4/	1,000	- -	28 Scientific and literary.	40 -	-- Yes; largest audience ever at the Institution, and greatest amount taken.	Yes; some.
- - -	- Probably classes, and reading-rooms recently established.	6/	1,000	- -	32 Miscellaneous	- -	- - -	Yes.
- - -	- Institution better known.	20/ 12/ 6/	800	- -	12 Literary and scientific.	12 -	- - -	Yes.
- - -	- - -	10/	- -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	Yes.
- - -	Individual effort	21/ 10/ 6/ 4/	600	- -	18 Scientific and historical.	25 -	- - -	Yes.
- - -	- - -	- - -	19,612(d)	£. 5,815	387 - £.	638 5		

(c) Good Lecturers much wanted.

(d) Devonport Public Library not included.

Appendix, No. 2.

PAPER delivered in by *Edward Edwards*, Esq., 3 March 1853.

Appendix, No. 2.

LIST of PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS, drawn up, printed, and circulated in 1851, with the View of obtaining them for the MANCHESTER FREE LIBRARY.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not and How.
Accounts, Public:	Sess.	
Reports on the Mode of Keeping the Public Accounts.	1822, 1829, 1830, 1831	not obtained.
Admiralty Courts:		
Report on Admiralty Courts - - - - -	1833	- - [reprinted 1843] not obtained.
Agriculture:		
Reports on State of Agriculture, &c. - - -	1821, 1822, 1833, 1836, &c.	not obtained.
Reports from Her Majesty's Consuls on State of Agriculture abroad, &c.	1836	ditto.
Information concerning Cost and Supply of Agricultural Produce in North Europe; by J. Meek.	1842	ditto.
Allotments of Land:		
Report on Allotment System - - - - -	1843	ditto.
Arctic Expeditions:		
Papers relative to - - - - - - - -	1849, 1852	- - obtained by donation of A. Henry, Esq. M.P.
Bank of England:		
Reports on Bank Affairs - - - - - -	1792, 1819, &c.	not obtained.
Reports on Forgery of Bank Notes - - -	1819	ditto.
Reports from Secret Committees on Bank Charter	1819, 1826, 1832	ditto.
Reports from Lords' Committees of 1819, &c. -	reprinted 1844	presented.
Banks of Issue, &c.:		
Reports on Joint Stock Banks - - - - -	1836, 1838, &c.	not obtained.
Reports on Banks of Issue - - - - - -	1840	purchased.
First and Second Reports of Committee of Secrecy on ditto.	1841	not obtained
Bankrupt Laws:		
Reports on the Policy and Effect of the Bankrupt Laws.	1817–18, &c.	ditto.
Bankruptcy:		
Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into Bankruptcy and Insolvency.	1840	ditto.
Supplemental Paper to the Report on Bankruptcy, &c.; by W. J. Law.	1841	ditto.
Report, &c., from Select Committee on the Bankruptcy Court Bill.	1834	ditto.
Beer:		
Report, &c., from Select Committee on the Sale of Beer.	1833	ditto.
Reports of the Lords' Committee on the Sale of Beer.	1849–50	ditto.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not; and How.
Bowring, John:	Sess.	
Reports to the British Government, viz:—		
First, Second, and Third Reports on the Public Accounts of France.	1831–32	not obtained.
Report on the Public Accounts of the Netherlands	1832	ditto.
First Report on the Commercial Relations of France and Great Britain.	1834	purchased.
Second Report on the Commercial Relations, &c. -	1835	
Report on Commerce and Manufactures of Switzerland.	1836	
Report on Statistics of Tuscany, &c. - - -	1837	
Report on Prussian Commercial Union, &c. - -	1840	
Report on Egypt and Candia - - - -	1840	
Report on the Commercial Statistics of Syria -	1840	
Breweries, Public:		
Report from Select Committee on Public Breweries, &c.	1818	not obtained.
Reports on the Sale of Beer - - - - -	1830, &c.	ditto.
Caledonian Canal:		
Reports of Select Committee on the Caledonian Canal, &c.	1839–40	ditto.
Calico Printers:		
Report on Petition of Journeymen Calico Printers, on the State of the Trade, &c.	1806–7	ditto.
Canada:		
Reports on Canal Communication in Canada, &c. -	1831–32	ditto.
Reports of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Grievances complained of in Lower Canada.	1837	ditto.
Ceylon:		
Reports on the Revenues, &c. of Ceylon - -	1832	ditto.
Charities, Public:		
Report from Select Committee on the Reports of the Commissioners of Charities in England and Wales.	1835	ditto.
Analytical Digests of the Reports made by the Commissioners upon Public Charities, &c.	1832–43	ditto.
China Trade:		
Report from Select Committee on Trade with China	1840	ditto.
Returns of China Trade in 1846, 1847, and 1848; *with Map.*	1847–49	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on Commercial Relations with China; *with Plans.*	1847	ditto.
Children, Employment of:		
Report respecting the Health and Morals of Children employed in Cotton Factories.	1816	ditto.
First and Second Reports on the Employment of Children; *with Evidences, Appendices, Indexes, and Maps.*	1842–44	purchased.
Church Leases:		
Reports, &c., on Church Leases - - - -	1837–39	not obtained.
Cinque Ports:		
Report and Minutes of Evidence before the Select Committee on Cinque Ports Pilots.	1833	ditto.
Civil List:		
Reports from Select Committee on Civil List Charges.	1833–38	ditto.
Reports from Select Committee on Pensions charged on the Civil List.	1838	ditto.

Appendix, No. 2.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not and How.
Coal Trade:	Sess.	
Reports, &c., from Select Committee on the State of the Coal Trade.	1836–8	not obtained.
Minutes of the Proceedings of Select Committee on the Coalwhippers' Bill.	1843	ditto.
Coin and Currency:		
Reports and Minutes of Evidence on the Circulating Medium, the high price of Bullion, the state of Coin, &c.	1810 1816 1826 1830	- - Report of 1810 purchased; subsequent Reports not obtained.
Colonies:		
Reports on the Receipt and Expenditure of the Revenue in the Colonies and Foreign Possessions.	1831, &c.	—
Report of the Board of Trade, in 1764, on the expediency of Restraining the Emission of Paper Bills of Credit in our North American Colonies, &c.	1813	not obtained.
Report on the Disposal of Lands in the British Colonies.	1836	ditto.
Report on Aborigines (British Settlements) - -	1836	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on the Military Establishment and Expenditure in the Colonies; with Minutes of Evidence, &c. 2 vols.	1834–35	ditto.
Reports on disposal of Land in the British Colonies, and on Colonial Receipts and Expenditure.	1836–37	ditto.
Papers on the State of the Labouring Population in the West Indies and Mauritius, &c.	1846, &c.	- - presented by Earl Grey; together with a series of Papers on the Colonies from 1846 to 1851. In February last I applied to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, apprising him of the donation made by his Grace's predecessor, and soliciting the Colonial Papers subsequently issued. This application was most promptly and kindly acceded to.
Consular Establishment:		
Report from Select Committee on Consular Department, &c.	1835	not obtained.
Convict Discipline and Transportation:		
Correspondence respecting Convict Discipline, &c.	1848–49	- - presented by A. Henry, Esq., M.P.
Combination Laws:		
Report and Evidence on the Consequences of repealing the Combination Laws.	1825	purchased.
First and Second Reports of Select Committee on Trade Unions and Combinations, &c.	1838	not obtained.
Copyright of Books:		
Report on Copyright of Printed Books, &c. -	1813–18	not obtained.
Copyright of Designs:		
Report on Copyright of Designs - - - -	1840	ditto.
Corn Trade:		
Reports on the Corn Trade, &c. (1802, 1804, 1805, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1827, 1834, 1835, 1840, 1842).	1802–42	ditto.
Correspondence with Foreign Powers relative to the Duties on Importation, &c.	1839	ditto.
Cotton Trade:		
Reports on Duties payable on Cotton Goods -	1818	ditto.
Reports on the State of the Cotton Trade, &c. -	1808 1809–11 &c.	ditto.
Returns relative to the Cultivation of Cotton in India; *with plans.*	1847	ditto.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not; and How.
County Courts:	Sess.	
Report from Select Committee on County Courts Bill.	1839	not obtained.
Customs:		
Report from Commissioners of Revenue Inquiry on Customs Frauds; with the Report of the Commissioners of Customs, and of the Select Committee thereon.	1843–44	ditto.
First Report from Select Committee on Customs -	1851	- - presented by A. Henry, Esq., M.P.
Customs and Excise:		
Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry respecting the Customs and Excise.	1820, &c.	- - purchased at sale of the library of the late Mr. Harrison, Commissioner of Inland Revenue.
Danish Claims:		
Reports of Commissioners for investigating the Danish Claims.	1835 1839–40	not obtained.
Distilleries:		
Reports on Distillation from Sugar, &c. - -	1807–8	ditto.
Reports and Evidence on Distilleries and Illicit Distillation, &c.	1813–16	ditto.
Drunkenness:		
Report from Select Committee of Inquiry into Drunkenness, &c.	1834	ditto.
East India Company:		
Reports on the Affairs, &c., of the East India Company (1808, 1813, 1830, 1832, 1836, 1840), 11 vols.	1808–40	- - a portion of these Papers has been purchased in the form in which they were printed at the cost of the East India Company.
Education, Public:		
Reports of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.	1833, &c.	not obtained.
Report of Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of Education in Wales. Three parts.	1847	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on the State of Education.	1834	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on Education in England and Wales.	1835	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on Foundation Schools, and Education in Ireland.	1835–36 1838	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on Medical Education.	1834	ditto.
Report on the Education of the Poorer Classes in England and Wales.	1838	ditto.
Reports of the Factory Inspectors, on the Educational Provisions of the Factories Act.	1839	ditto.
Reports of the Committee of Privy Council on Education. 14 vols.	1838–50	- - presented by the Lords' Committee.
Emigration:		
Reports on Emigration from the United Kingdom.	1826–47	not obtained.
Excise:		
Twenty Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the Excise Establishment, with Digest and Index.	1833–37	- - purchased at the sale of the library of Mr. Harrison.
Exchequer Bills:		
Report on the Forgery of Exchequer Bills - -	1842	not obtained.
Report on the Mode of Issuing Exchequer Bills, &c.	1842	ditto.

Appendix, No. 2.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not; and How.
Expenditure, Public:	Sess.	
Reports on Expenditure; Army, Navy, Ordnance, and Miscellaneous.	1848–9–50	- - presented by A. Henry, Esq., M. P.
Report on Official Salaries.	1850	
Exportation of Machinery:		
Reports, &c. from Select Committee, on the Exportation of Machinery.	1841	not obtained.
Factories;		
Annual Reports of the Factory Inspectors; with the Special Reports on Accidents from Machinery; on the Establishment of Schools; and on the Educational Provisions of the Factories Act.	1835–50	- - from 1848 downwards, presented by A. Henry, Esq., M.P. The others not obtained.
Reports, &c. from Select Committees, on the Regulation of Mills and Factories (1832–1840–1841).	1832–41	not obtained.
Fine Arts:		
Reports, &c., of Select Committee on Fine Arts -	1841	ditto.
Reports of Commissioners, 1842–1851 - -	1842, &c.	ditto.
Fisheries:		
Reports of the Select Committee on the Salmon Fisheries of the United Kingdom, &c.	1824–25	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on British Channel Fisheries.	1843	ditto.
Annual Reports of the Commissioners on the Irish Fisheries, &c.	1849, &c.	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on the Fisheries of Ireland; *with Index and Plans.*	1849	ditto.
Reports of Commissioners for British Fisheries -	1842, &c.	ditto.
Reports of Commissioners of Inquiry respecting Irish Fisheries.	1837	ditto.
Reports of Commissioners for Herring Fishery -	1835	ditto.
Flour:		
Report respecting the Manufacture of Flour in Bond.	1842	ditto.
Foreign Trade:		
Report on Warehousing Foreign Goods in Inland Towns.	1840	ditto.
Report, &c., from Select Committee on Import Duties.	1840	ditto.
Report of Select Committees on Foreign Trade:—		
Commons' Reports:—1. On the Timber Trade. 2 and 3. On the East India and China Trade.	1821	ditto.
Lords' Reports:—1. On the Timber Trade. 2. On the East India and China Trade. 3. On the Silk and Wine Trade.	1821	ditto.
Frame-Work Knitters:		
Reports on Frame-Work Knitters' Petitions -	1812–1819	ditto.
Report of Commissioners (1845); *with Appendices and Plans.*	1845	ditto.
Friendly Societies:		
Two Reports, with the Evidence taken before the Select Committee of the House of Commons, on the Laws respecting Friendly Societies.	1825–27	ditto.
Gas-Light Establishments:		
Reports to Government respecting Gas-Light Establishments.	1823	not obtained.
Hand-Loom Weavers:		
Reports, &c., from Select Committee on Hand-Loom Weavers.	1834–35	ditto.
Harbours of Refuge:		
Report, &c., on Harbours of Refuge - - -	- - -	ditto.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not; and How.
Health of Towns:	Sess.	
Report, &c., from Select Committee on Public Walks.	1833	not obtained.
Reports, &c., from Select Committee on Health of Towns.	1840-42	ditto.
Report of Commissioners for Inquiry into the State of Large Towns, &c.	1845, &c.	ditto.
Reports of the General Board of Health on Quarantine, on Epidemic Cholera, on Water Supply, and on Extramural Sepulture.	1849-51	- - presented by the Board. Some of the ordinary Reports of the Board are still desiderata.
Holyhead Harbour:		
Report of the Commissioners on Holyhead Harbour; *with Plans.*	1847	not obtained.
Inclosures:		
Report, &c., from Select Committee, on Commons' Enclosure.	1844	ditto.
General Report on Enclosures. Drawn up by order of the Board of Agriculture.	1808	ditto.
Joint Stock Companies:		
Reports, &c., on Joint Stock Companies - -	1843-44	ditto.
Report from Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Laws respecting Joint Stock Companies.	1844	ditto.
Kyan's Patent:		
Report from Select Committee on Kyan's Patent for Prevention of Dry Rot.	1835	ditto.
Leather Trade:		
Reports and Evidence respecting the Leather Trade, and the Duty on Leather.	1813-16	ditto.
Lighthouses:		
Reports of Select Committees on Lighthouses -	1834-45	- - the Reports of 1845 purchased.
London, Port of:		
Report, &c. from Select Committee on the State of the Port of London.	1836	not obtained.
Manufactures:		
Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the State of the Woollen Manufacture of England.	1806	ditto.
Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Laws relating to Watchmakers.	1817-18	ditto.
Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Linen Trade of Ireland.	1825	ditto.
Report from the Select Committee of the House of Lords on the British Wool Trade.	1828	ditto.
Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Silk Trade	1832	ditto.
Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Present State of Manufactures, Commerce, and Shipping in the United Kingdom.	1833	ditto.
Report of the Commission on the State of the Hand-Loom Weavers.	1841	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on Arts, and their Connexion with Manufactures.	1836	ditto.
Report, &c., on Manufactures, Commerce, and Shipping.	1835-36	ditto.
Return of the Number of Power Looms used in Factories in each County of the United Kingdom.	1836	ditto.
Manufacturing Districts:		
Report from Select Committee on the Manufacturing Districts.	1830	ditto.

(*continued*)

Appendix, No. 2.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not and How.
Mines, Mining and Coal Trade, &c.:	Sess.	
Reports of Select Committees on the State of the Coal Trade.	1830	not obtained.
Mining and Accidents in Mines - - - -	1835	ditto.
Coal Fields, &c. - - - - - - -	1836	ditto.
The Coal Trade of London - - - -	1838	ditto.
Employment of Children in Mines; *with two Appendices.*	1842	ditto.
Of the Midland Mining Commission, &c. (South Stafford)	1843	ditto.
On Explosions, &c. - - - - - - -	1845	purchased.
Of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the operation of the Act excluding Females, &c., 2 vols.	1845–46	ditto.
On Gases and Explosions; by De La Beche, Playfair, and Warrington Smyth.	1847	ditto.
The means of preventing Dangerous Accidents in Coal Mines.	1849	- - presented by A. Henry, Esq., M.P.
Award of the Dean Forest Mining Commissioner	1841	not obtained.
Plans of the Coal and Iron Mines of Dean Forest	1842	ditto.
Account of the Mining Districts of Alston Moor, Weardale, and Teesdale.	1841	ditto.
Reports of Commissioners on the State of the Population in the Mining Districts.	1845, &c.	ditto.
Report from Lords' Committee on Accidents in Coal Mines; *with plans.*	1849	ditto.
Reports of the Dean Forest Commissioners, and Mining Commissioners.	1835–41	ditto.
Observations on the Ventilation of Mines, with a description of a new Mine-Ventilator, invented by W. P. Struve.	1846	ditto.
Report on the Ventilation of Mines and Collieries; *with plans.*	1850	ditto.
Report on the Ventilation of Mines; *with plans* -	1850	ditto.
Mint:		
Report from the Select Committee on the Royal Mint.	1837	ditto.
Report from Commissioners on the Constitution, Management, and Expense of the Royal Mint.	1849	ditto.
Municipal Corporations:		
Report, &c., from Select Committee on Municipal Corporations.	1833	ditto.
Commissioners' Reports, &c.; *with the Appendices, and Analytical Index.* 7 vols.	1835–39	ditto.
Municipal Corporations (Ireland):		
Reports of Commissioners of Inquiry; *with Appendices.*	1836–37	ditto.
Navigation Laws:		
Five Reports from Select Committee, on the Navigation Laws; *with Index.*	1847	ditto.
Navy:		
Statistical Reports on the Health of the Navy -	1849	- - presented by A. Henry, Esq., M.P.
First, Second and Third Reports on Coals suited to the Steam Navy.	1849–51	ditto.
New South Wales:		
Report on the State of Agriculture and Trade in the Colony of New South Wales.	1823	not obtained.
Report on the State of New South Wales - -	1822	ditto.
Offices, Public:		
Reports on the Fees and Emoluments of Public Offices, &c.	1837	ditto.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not; and How.
Printing:		
Report from Select Committee on the Patent of the King's Printers; with a Report by Lord Nugent and Mr. Vernon Smith, to the Treasury, on Government Printing.	Sess. 1832	not obtained.
Prison Discipline:		
Report from Select Committee on Prison Discipline.	1850	- - presented by A. Henry, Esq., M. P.
Prisons:		
Annual Reports of the Inspectors of Prisons -	1836, &c.	not obtained.
Post-office:		
Report on Postal Communication between London and Paris.	1850	ditto.
First and Second Reports, &c., on West India Mails.	1841	ditto.
Reports, &c. on Post-office Communication with Ireland.	1832–41–42	ditto.
Four Reports, &c., from Select Committee on Postage Rates, &c.	1838–43	ditto.
Reports on detaining and opening Letters, &c. -	1844	ditto.
Report of Commissioners on Sunday Labour -	1850	- - presented by A. Henry, Esq., M. P.
Report and Evidence on the French Post-office, &c.	—	
Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the Management, &c., of the Post-office.	1832–38	not obtained.
Report, &c. on Conveyance of Mail by Railroads -	1838	ditto.
Patents for Inventions:		
Report from Select Committee on the Law relative to Patents for Inventions.	1829	ditto.
Pawnbroking:		
Report, &c. on the Laws which affect the Trade of Pawnbroking in Ireland.	1838	ditto.
Poor Laws:		
Reports of the Commissioners on the Poor Laws, and of the Poor Law Boards. 24 vols.	1833–1850	- - the Reports of the Poor Law Board have been presented; those of the Commissioners are desiderata.
Two Reports on Poor Laws, &c. - - - -	1838	not obtained.
Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Mendicity in the Metropolis.	1815	ditto.
Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Poor Laws.	1817	ditto.
Report by a Committee of the General Assembly on the Management of the Poor in Scotland.	1839	ditto.
Poor Laws (Ireland):		
Reports of the Commissioners, &c. - - -	1835–1850	ditto.
Indices to Reports, 1835–39 - - - -	1845	ditto.
Population Returns:		
Abstracts of the Population Returns of Great Britain, &c.	1801–1851	- - the Census Abstracts of 1801–1821 have been purchased. So much of those of 1851 as were delivered to the Members of the late Parliament have been presented by A. Henry, Esq. For the remainder, application was made to Lord Palmerston, but the application was refused.
Quarantine:		
Correspondence relative to the Contagion of the Plague, and the Quarantine Regulations of Foreign Countries.	1836–43	not obtained.

(*continued*)

Appendix, No. 2.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not; and How.
Railways:	Sess.	
Report of Commissioners on the Gauge of Railways; *with Evidence and Appendix.*	1846	not obtained.
Report from Select Committee on Railway Labourers; *with Plans.*	1846	ditto.
Report, &c., on Manchester and Birmingham Extension Railway Bill.	1839	ditto.
Annual Reports of Commissioners; *with Plans* - - - -		ditto.
Report from Select Committee on Accidents on Railways.	1841	ditto.
Report of the Metropolitan Railway Commissioners; *with Evidence, Maps, and Plans.*	1846	ditto.
Report of Commissioners on the Application of Iron to Railway Structures; *with Plans.*	1849	ditto.
First and Second Reports from Lords' Committee's on Audit of Railway Accounts.	1849	ditto.
Report on the Chester and Holyhead Railway; by Walker and Simmons.	1847	ditto.
Reports from Select Committees on Railways and Railway Bills.	1836–44	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on Atmospheric Railways.	1845	ditto.
Report from Lords' Committee on Railways	1846	ditto.
Note. — The Papers on Railway Subjects issued subsequent to Session 1847, have been presented by A. Henry, Esq., M.P.		
Registration, Parochial:		
Report from Select Committee on Parochial Registration.	1833	ditto.
Report of Commissioners on the State, Custody, and Authenticity of Registers, &c., in England and Wales.	1838	ditto
Registration of Deeds:		
Report of Select Committee on a General Register of all Deeds, &c.	1832	ditto.
evenue, Public:		
Reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the Collection and Management of the Public Revenue. [First to Twenty-second.]	1822–30	ditto.
Revenue, Population, and Commerce:		
Tables of Revenue, Population, and Commerce -	1833–50	purchased.
Roads and Turnpike Trusts:		
Two Reports from Lords' Committees on Turnpike Trusts.	1833	not obtained.
Two Reports from Commons' Committee on Turnpike Trusts and Roads.	1836–39	ditto.
Report, &c., of Commissioners on the State of the Roads in England and Wales.	1840	ditto.
Savings:		
Report on the Savings of the Middle and Working Classes.	1850	ditto.
Schools of Design:		
Report of an Inquiry into the State of Schools of Design in Prussia, Bavaria, and France.	1840	ditto.
Reports of the Council of the Schools of Design -	1841, &c.	ditto.
Report of a Special Committee of the Council of the Government School of Design.	1847	ditto.
Reports from Select Committees on the Government School of Design.	1841–49	ditto.
Sewers:		
Report from Select Committee on Metropolis Sewers.	1834	ditto.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not; and How.
Shipping:	Sess.	
Reports on the Trinity House, Lighthouses, and Pilotage.	1822	not obtained.
Reports on West India Docks and Exclusive Privileges.	1823	ditto.
Reports on Pilotage - - - - - -	1824	ditto.
Reports on Quarantine and the Plague - -	1824	ditto.
Reports on London Port Duties - - - -	1824	ditto.
First and Second Reports, &c., from Select Committee on Shipwrecks.	1843	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on British Shipping	1844	ditto.
Reports, &c., from Select Committee on Merchant Seamen's Fund.	1840-44	ditto.
Slave Trade and Slavery:		
Report and Evidence on the Slave Trade in the Mauritius.	1826-27	ditto.
Report and Evidence on the Extinction of Slavery throughout the British Dominions.	1832	ditto.
Report, &c., on Negro Apprenticeship in the Colonies.	1836-37	ditto.
Report from the Lords' Committee on the African Slave Trade; *with Plans.*	1850	ditto.
First and Second Reports from the Commons' Committee on the Slave Trade.	1849	- - from 1848 downwards presented by A. Henry, Esq., M.P. The preceding dates are still desiderata.
Correspondence with British Commissioners and Foreign Powers, relative to the Suppression of the Slave Trade, &c.	1847, &c.	
South Australia:		
Two Reports, &c., from Select Committee on South Australia.	1841	not obtained.
Annual Reports of the Colonisation Commissioners of South Australia.	1836, &c.	ditto.
Spirit Trade:		
Report on the Spirit Trade between Great Britain and Ireland.	1809	ditto.
Stamps:		
Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the Department of Stamps.	1821	ditto.
Stationery:		
Reports from Select Committee on the Public Stationery Contract.	1833	ditto.
Statute Labour (Scotland):		
Report from Select Committee on Statute Labour in Scotland.	1836	ditto.
Steam Carriages:		
Reports from Select Committee on Steam Carriages	1834-35	ditto.
Steam Communication with India:		
Reports from Select Committees on Steam Communication with India.	1834-37	ditto.
Papers relative to the Euphrates Expedition -	1837	ditto.
Report respecting Steam Communication between Suez and Bombay.	1850	- - presented by A. Henry, Esq., M.P.
Steam Furnaces:		
Reports on the method of constructing Steam Furnaces, so as to consume their own Smoke.	1819-20	not obtained.
Steam Navigation:		
Report on Steam Navigation.	1831	ditto.
Steam Navy:		
Report from Select Committee on the Steam Navy; *with Plans.*	1849	ditto.

Appendix, No. 2.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not; and How.
Sunday Trading:	Sess.	
Report from Select Committee on Sabbath Observance.	1832	not obtained.
Report of the Lords' Committee on the Sunday Trading (Metropolis) Bill.	1850	ditto.
Tariffs:		
Commercial Tariffs; Parts I.—XXIII.	1840, &c.	purchased.
Tea Duties:		
Report, &c., from Select Committee on Tea Duties	1834	not obtained.
Thames River:		
Report of the Lords' Committee on the Laws which regulate the Carriage of Passengers for Hire on the Thames.	1838	ditto.
Tidal Harbours:		
Reports of the Tidal Harbours Commission; *with Supplement, Indexes, and Plans.*	1844, &c.	ditto.
Timber Duties:		
Report, &c., from Select Committee on Timber Duties.	1835	ditto.
Tobacco Trade:		
Report from Select Committee on Tobacco Trade, &c.	1844	ditto.
Tontine Annuities:		
Reports on Irish Tontine Annuities.	1811–13	ditto.
Trade:		
Reports of the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade and Plantations.	- - -	ditto.
Trades' Unions:		
Report on Trades' Unions - - - - - -	- - -	ditto.
Transportation:		
Reports from Select Committees on Transportation and Secondary Punishments.	{1812–32–37–38}	ditto.
Usury Laws:		
Report and Evidence on the Operation of the Usury Laws, and the Means used to evade their Intention (1818)	1821	ditto.
Ventilation of the Houses of Parliament:		
Report on the Ventilation and Warming of the Houses of Parliament, &c.	1835–41–42	ditto.
Wages:		
Report of Select Committee on the Operation of the Law which prohibits the Payment of Wages in Goods, &c.	1842	ditto.
Walks, Public:		
Report, &c., on Public Walks - - - -	1833	ditto.
Water Supply:		
Report on the Supply of Water by the Water Companies; with the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee thereon.	1821	ditto.
Reports from Select Committees on the Supply of Water to the Metropolis.	1828–34–40	ditto.
Report of the General Board of Heath; *with four Appendices and Plans.*	1850	- - presented by A. Henry, Esq., M.P.

Appendix, No. 2.

TITLE of PAPER or REPORT.	Date of Paper.	Whether Obtained or Not; and How.
Weights and Measures:	Sess.	
Report from Select Committee on the Original Standard of Weights and Measures.	1814	not obtained.
Report on ascertaining a Standard on Philosophical Principles.	1821	ditto.
Four Reports of Commissioners for ascertaining and restoring the Standards of Weight and Measure, &c.	1819–21–42	ditto.
Reports, &c., from Select Committee on Weights and Measures' Bill.	1834–35	ditto.
West India Colonies:		
Report from Select Committee on the Commercial State of the West India Colonies.	1807	ditto.
Report on the Expediency of supplying them with Free Labourers from the East.	1811	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on the Commercial State of the West India Colonies; *with Evidence, Appendix, and Index.*	1832	ditto.
Westminster Bridge:		
Report, &c., from Select Committee on Westminster Bridge.	1844	ditto.
Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues of the Crown:		
Four Reports from Select Committees on the Land Revenue of the Crown and on the Management of the Woods, Forests, &c.	1833–34 1849	- - from 1848 downwards presented by A. Henry, Esq., M.P. The others not obtained.
Annual Reports of the Commissioners - - -	1830–50	
Woollen Manufacture		
Report on Woollen Clothiers' Petition relating to Apprentices.	1803	ditto.
Minutes of Evidence on Bill relating to the Woollen Trade.	1803	ditto.
Report on Petitions from Woollen Manufacturers of Yorkshire.	1804	ditto.
Report and Evidence on the State of the Woollen Manufacture in England, and the Use of Machinery.	1806	ditto.
Report from Select Committee on the Laws relating to Stamping Woollen Cloth, and the Manner of conducting the Trade.	1821	ditto.

Edward Edwards,
Principal Librarian.

Appendix, No. 3.

Appendix, No. 3.

LETTER from *T. E. Cliffe Leslie,* Esq.

2, Lower Leeson-street, Dublin, 20 April 1853.

To the Right Honourable the CHAIRMAN of the Select Committee on PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

Sir,

I BEG to forward a Table, containing answers from 29 Irish Literary and Mechanics' Institutions, to the questions contained in the circular which I issued according to your request. There are several useful and flourishing societies in Ireland of the same character, which are not included in this table. In particular I beg leave to name the Belfast Library Society, the Belfast Working Classes Association, the Belfast Queen's College Literary Society, the Belfast Social Inquiry Society, and the Dublin Mutual Improvement Association.

(signed) I have, &c.
T. E. Cliffe Leslie.

TABLE containing Answers from Twenty-nine Irish Literary and Mechanics' Institutions.

	MEMBERS.			BOOKS.			LECTURES.			PAPERS READ AND DISCUSSED.			INCOME and EXPENDITURE.			ACCOMMODATION.
	1850.	1851.	1852.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1850.	1851.	1852.	
													£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
1. Ardee Mechanics' Institute.	111	98	89	381	572	634	11	25	3	–	1	1	71 1 4	48 4 11	35 15 7	- - use of Court-house and book-cases.
2. Armagh Natural History and Philosophical Society.	- -	126	150	–	40	270	–	16	9	–	17	5	- -	50 10 –	54 15 –	- - at present the upper story of a house. In treaty for a separate building.
3. Belfast Museum and Natural History Society.	about 220	same	same, and 4,500 penny visitors.	about 900	same	same	–	–	–	15	15	24	about £.125	same.	same.	- - a large building and excellent Museum.
4. Belturbet Literary Society.	12	15	27	49	165	250	7	7	7	7	7	7	£.15	£.26	£.27	- - three rooms from Town Commissioners.
5. Carlow Mechanics' Institute.	- -	- -	159	–	–	290	–	–	3 courses	–	–	–	- -	- -	Income, £.71; Expenditure, £.35.	A good house.
6. Clonmel Mechanics' Institute.	273	280	297	2,101	2,112	2,342	2	3	4	–	–	–	£.178	£.242	£.313	Several rooms.
7. Royal Cork Institute.	proprietors 150; subscribers 70.	same subscribers 50.	same subscribers 50.	1,200	12,100	12,250	–	–	–	–	–	–	- -	- -	Income, £.280; Expenditure, £.298.	Large building.
8. Cork Scientific Society.	50	80	50	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	- -	- -	Income, £.12; Expenditure, £.18.	- - hired room in Royal Cork Institution.

9. Coleraine Mechanics' Institute.	- -	about 60	about 75	–	–	300	number not furnished			–	–	–	- - -	- - -	Income, £.22 1*s.* 8*d.*; Expenditure, £. 20. 10. 10.	- - Rooms from Town Commissioners.
10. Downpatrick Mechanics' Institute.	110	120	120	140	295	320	3	6	15	–	–	–	Income, £. 30; Expenditure, £. 25.	Income, £. 101: Expenditure, £. 99.	Income, £. 112; Expenditure, £. 111.	- - Rooms free, given by D. S. Ker, Esq., M. P.
11. Drogheda Mechanics' Institute.	246	248	275	784	836	964	26	28	33	–	–	–	Income, £. 116; Expenditure, £. 119.	Income, £. 118; Expenditure, £. 122.	Income, £. 128; Expenditure, £. 123.	Large building.
12. Dublin Mechanics' Institute.	2,862 and 12,000 penny visitors.	3,036 and 15,000 penny visitors.	3,004 and 16,444 penny visitors.	5,543	7,287	7,610	8	15	31	–	–	–	£. 783.	£. 1,121.	£. 1,088	A very fine building.
13. Dublin Library Society.	429	408	335	10,000	same	same	–	–	–	–	–	–	Income, £. 498.	Income, £. 501.	Income, £. 504.	Large building.
14. Dundalk Mechanics' Institute.	170	176	134	1,500	1,650	1,800	7	8	14	–	–	–	Income, £. 59; Expenditure, £. 48.	Income, £. 80; Expenditure, £. 63.	Income, £. 72; Expenditure, £. 93.	- - Rooms given by Lord Roden.
15. Dungannon Literary Society.	55	63	54	337	400	412	22	20	10	5	7	16	Income, £. 69. 14*s.*; Expenditure, £. 46.	Income, £. 88; Expenditure, £. 67.	Income, £. 89. 12*s.*; Expenditure, £. 69. 11*s.*	Good house.
16. Garvagh Scientific Society.	11	12	12	20	same	same	12	12	14	12	12	8	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - this Society built a house in 1852.
17. Royal Galway Institution.	65	78	100	1,100	–	1,500	–	–	–	12	8	8	Income, £. 121; Expenditure, £. 82.	Income, £. 177; Expenditure, £. 114.	Return not made up.	- - at present four rooms; a house in contemplation.
18. Killileagh Literary Society.	12 and 100 penny visitors.	12 and 138 penny visitors.	12 and 150 penny visitors.	–	–	–	6	7	6	4	–	–	£. 3.	£. 4.	£. 4. 1*s.*	A news-room.
19. Kilkenny Literary Institution.	- -	- -	140	–	–	–	–	–	12	–	–	20	- - -	- - -	Income, £. 52; Expenditure, £. 40.	- - Museum, and ample accommodation.
20. Lisburn Literary Society.	- -	73	70	–	350	500	–	13	10	–	–	–	- - -	Income, £. 73; Expenditure, £. 70.	About same	Large room.

TABLE containing Answers from Twenty-nine Irish Literary and Mechanics Institutions—*continued.*

	MEMBERS.			BOOKS.			LECTURES.			PAPERS READ AND DISCUSSED.			INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.			ACCOMMODATION.
	1850.	1851.	1852.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1850.	1851.	1852.	
21. Limerick Institution.	159	145	144	3,714	same	same	–	–	–	–	–	–	Income, £. 296; Expenditure, £. 289.	Income, £. 282; Expenniture, £. 304.	Income, £. 266; Expenditure, £. 299.	A large building.
22. Limerick Social Inquiry Society.	- -	- -	29	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	2	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - an Athenæum is projected, to include and accommodate this and several other societies.
23. Limerick Friends' Scientific Society.	- -	62	57	–	–	–	18	21	23	- - some private discussions.			- - -	Income, £. 7. 3 *s.*; Expenditure, £. 6. 19 *s.*	Income, £. 16. 3 *s.*; Expenditure, £. 16. 2 *s.*	Hired room.
24. Lurgan Literary Society.	51	56	56	550	553	642	7	17	6	–	–	–	Income, £. 53. 5 *s.*; Expenditure, £. 52.	Income, £. 67; Expenditure, £. 60.	Income, £. 80; Expenditure, £. 87.	A large room.
25. Mountmellick Mutual Improvement Association.	18	33	41	72	145	200	6	–	–	5	11	12	Income, £. 13. 10 *s.*; Expenditure, £. 11. 12 *s.*	Income, £. 14; Expenditure, £. 12. 18 *s.*	Income, £. 13. 14 *s.*; Expenditure, £. 12. 11 *s.*	
26. Newry Institute -	- -	78 and 744 penny visitors.	68 and 835 penny visitors.	–	240	450	–	10	12	–	–	–	- - -	Income, £. 161; Expenditure, £. 158.	Income, £. 64; Expenditure, £. 77.	
27. Portaferry Mechanics' Institute.	16	18	20 and in 1853 52.	443	–	531	–	–	–	–	–	–	Income, £. 4. 16 *s.*	Income, £. 5. 8 *s.*	£. 6, and will be much larger in 1853.	Two rooms.
28. Waterford Mechanics' Institute.	- -	- -	102	–	–	670	–	–	7	–	–	–	- - -	- - -	Income, £. 55. 11 *s.*; Expenditure, £. 53. 10 *s.*	Two rooms.
29. Wexford Mechanics' Institute.	176	150	179	725	866	904	20	15	18	- -	–	–	Income, £. 100; Expenditure, £. 132.	Income, £. 110. 18 *s.*; Expenditure, £. 107. 5 *s.*	Income, £. 137. 7 *s.*; Expenditure, £. 116. 17 *s.*	

Appendix, No. 4.

LIST of LITERARY and SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS and MECHANICS' INSTITUTES, in *England* and *Wales*, with a portion of those in *Scotland* and *Ireland*. Appendix, No. 4.

N. B.—In the following List the Institutions marked thus * are in Union with the Society of Arts.

Where a Return has been received, the number of Members is given in the column headed "Actual." Where this has not been the case, the number has been taken from Dr. Hudson's Treatise on Adult Education, and is given in the second column, under the head "Estimated."

SUMMARY STATEMENT.

INSTITUTIONS HAVING	Of all the Institutions in the List.	TOTAL.	Of those in Union with the Society of Arts.	TOTAL.
Under 100 members	282		42	
From 100 to 250 ditto	298		122	
„ 250 to 300 ditto	32		16	
„ 300 to 400 ditto	53		27	
„ 400 to 500 ditto	22		14	
„ 500 to 1,000 ditto	39		22	
Upwards of 1,000 ditto	11		7	
	737		250	
Institutions in which the number of members is not given	120		21	
		857		271

Places in which there are more than one Institution, 85.

LIST of LITERARY and SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS and MECHANICS' INSTITUTES in *England* and *Wales*, &c.

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	No. of Members. Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND.			
BEDFORD:			
*Bedford	Literary and Scientific Institution	150	
Leighton Buzzard	Institute	60	
Luton	Literary Institution		40
*Woburn	Literary and Scientific Institution		

Appendix, No. 4.

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	No. of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
BERKSHIRE:			
Abingdon	Mechanics' Institution	-	
*Maidenhead	Mechanics', Literary and Scientific Institution	150	
*Newbury	Literary Institution	168	
*Reading	Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution	220	
Wallingford	Mechanics' Institution	140	
*Wantage	Alfred Literary and Scientific Institution	100	
*Windsor and Eton	Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution	325	
BUCKINGHAM:			
*Aylesbury	Mechanics' Institution	90	
Buckingham	Institution	-	
Chesham	Mechanics' Institution	-	80
High Wycombe	Literary Institute	75	
Marlow (Great)			
Newport Pagnel	Literary and Scientific Institute	-	80
*Slough	Mechanics' Institution	94	
Wolverton	Mechanics' Institution	-	
Wycombe	Literary Institution	-	78
CAMBRIDGE:			
*Cambridge	Philo-Union Literary Society	210	
* Ditto and Cambridgeshire	Mechanics' Institute	253	
*Ely	Mechanics' Institution	85	
March	Mechanics' Institution	-	70
Newmarket	Literary Institution	-	
Whittlesea	Institution	-	73
*Wisbeach	Mechanics' Institute	-	
CHESHIRE:			
Altrincham	Literary Institution	121	
*Chester	Mechanics' Institution	400	
Congleton	Mechanics' Institution	-	171
Crewe	Mechanics' Institution	182	
Dukinfield (near Ashton-under-Lyne)	Village Library	-	396
Hollingworth	Young Men's Association	35	
*Macclesfield	Society for the Acquirement of Useful Knowledge	500	
Middlewich	Literary and Scientific Institution	82	
Nantwich	Mechanics' Institution	-	78
Runcorn	Church Institute	54	
Runcorn Gap	Mechanics' Institution	-	
Sandbach	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	30
Stockport	Mechanics' Institution	-	445
Tarporley	Reading and News Room	55	
Tintwhistle	Subscription Library	-	30
CORNWALL:			
Altarnum	Mutual Improvement Society	18	
*Bodmin	Literary Institution	100	
Camborne	Useful Knowledge Society	-	85
*Falmouth	Mechanics' Institute	160	
Ditto	Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society	-	380
Ditto	Athenæum	-	180
Grampound (near St. Austell)	Literary Institution	57	
Launceston	Mutual Instruction Institute	120	
*Liskeard	Institution	180	
Looe (East Looe)	Mechanics' Institute	90	
Newquay (near St. Columb)	Institution	-	40
Penryn	Mechanics' Institute	-	120
*Penzance	Institution for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge	128	
Ditto	Literary Institution	300	
Redruth	Institution for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge	128	
St. Agnes (near Truro)	Institution	32	
St. Columb	Institution	-	30
*St. Ives	Institution	100	
*St. Just (near Penzance)	Institution	75	
St. Stephen's (near St. Austell)	Institution	-	20
*Truro	Literary and Scientific Institution	400	
Wadebridge, (near Bodmin)	Literary and Scientific Institution	72	

Appendix, No. 4.

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	No. of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
CUMBERLAND:			
Alston	Mechanics' Institution	40	
Brampton	Mechanics' Institution	123	
*Carlisle	Literary, Scientific and Mechanical Institution	506	
Cockermouth	Mechanics' Institution	180	
Haltwhistle, near Carlisle	Mechanics' Institution	67	
Hawick	Literary and Scientific Institution	25	
Keswick	Mechanics' Institute	75	
Maryport	Mechanics' Institution	170	
Penrith	Mechanics' Library	112	
Ditto	Book Society	70	
Ditto	Working Men's Reading Room	200	
*Whitehaven	Mechanics' Institution	260	
Wigton	Mechanics' Institute	-	123
*Workington	Mechanics' Institution	200	
DERBY:			
*Ashbourn	Literary Institute	100	
*Bakewell and High Peak	Institute	150	
Belper	Mechanics' Literary Institution	-	150
Ditto	Mental Improvement Library	-	65
Chapel-le-Frith	Improvement Society	-	50
*Chesterfield and Brampton	Mechanics' Institute	-	146
Codner Park	Artizan's Library	-	60
*Derby	Mechanics' Institution	564	
Ditto	Literary and Scientific Association	-	
Glossop	Mechanics' Institution	-	67
Ilkeston	Mutual Improvement Society	-	
Melbourn			
Pleasley	Mechanics' Apprentices Society	-	
*Wirksworth	Mechanics' Institution	-	
DEVON:			
*Barnstaple	Literary and Scientific Institution	350	
Bideford	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	100
Chudleigh	Literary Society	-	
Colyton, near Axminster	Mutual Improvement Society	60	
Crediton	Mechanics' Institute and Literary Society	71	
Cullompton	Mental Improvement Society	52	
*Dawlish	Literary and General Knowledge Society	165	
*Devonport	Mechanics' Institute	1,250	
*Exeter	Literary Society	530	
Ditto	Scientific and Literary Institution	220	
Honiton	Literary Institution	60	
Kingsbridge and Dodbrooke	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	50
*Modbury (near Ermebridge)	Institution	105	
Newton Abbot	Society for the Attainment of Useful Knowledge	250	
Ottery	Mutual Instruction Society	-	50
*Plymouth	Mechanics' Institute	800	
Ditto	Workman's Association	-	100
*Prince Town, Dartmoor	Literary Institution	40	
*Saltash (near Plymouth)	Institute	40	
Stonehouse (near Plymouth)	Literary and Scientific Institute	300	
Tavistock	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	180
Ditto	Mechanics' Institution	-	100
Ditto	Mutual Instruction Society	-	50
Teignmouth	Useful Knowledge Society	-	180
*Tiverton	Literary and Scientific Institution	160	
Torpoint (near Devonport)	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	
Torquay	Mechanics' Institution	-	120
Totnes	Mechanics' Institute	156	
DORSET:			
*Blandford	Institution	150	
Bridport	Mechanics' Institution	-	111
*Corfe Castle	Mutual Improvement Society	-	30
Dorchester	Dorset County Museum and Library	144	
Ditto	Literary Institution	-	50
*Poole	Town and County Library, and Literary Institute	-	220
Ditto	Mechanics' Institute	115	

(*continued*)

Appendix, No. 4.

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
DORSET—*continued.*			
Shaftesbury	Literary Institution	105	
*Sherborne	Literary Institution	160	
Sturminster Newton	Literary and Scientific Institution	50	
*Wareham	Mutual Improvement Society	91	
Weymouth			
*Wimborne Minster	Society for the Acquirement of Useful Knowledge	108	
DURHAM:			
Barnard Castle	Mechanics' Institute	70	
Bishop Wearmouth	Mechanics' Apprentices Library	-	70
Blaydon (near Gateshead)	Mechanics' Institution	-	90
Castle Eden	Library and Reading Room	-	63
Chester-le-Street	Mechanics' Institution	-	54
Crook (near Darlington)	Mechanics' Institute, Reading and Lecture Rooms	140	
*Darlington	Mechanics' Institution	486	
*Durham	Mechanics' Institute	350	
Etherley (near Darlington)	Mechanics' Institute	90	
Ferryhill	Literary Society	-	62
*Gateshead	Mechanics' Institute	340	
Hamsterley (near Bishop Auckland)	Mechanics' Institution	25	
Hartlepool	Scientific and Mechanical Institution	160	
Ledgate	Polytechnic Institution	-	50
Middlesbro'-on-Tees	Mechanics' Institute	320	
Pittington	Literary Institution	-	80
Sedgefield	Literary and Scientific Institution	160	
Shildon, New (near Darlington)	Mechanics' Institution	-	100
Shotley Bridge (near Gateshead)	Mechanics' Institution	-	60
South Shields	Mechanics' Institution	-	150
*Stockton-on-Tees	Mechanics' Institute of Literature and Science	401	
Sunderland	Literary and Philosophical Society	-	337
West Auckland (near Bishop Auckland)	Mechanics' Institution	-	40
Westgate	Weardale Library	30	
Wolsingham (near Darlington)	Mechanics' Institution	38	
ESSEX:			
*Barking	Mutual Improvement Society	-	
Billericay	Reading and Mutual Improvement Society	-	
*Braintree (and Bocking)	Literary and Mechanics' Institution	230	
Brentwood	Mechanics' Institution	170	
*Chelmsford	Literary and Mechanics' Institution	827	
*Coggeshall (near Kelvedon)	Literary and Mechanics' Institute	135	
Colchester	Mechanics' Institution	320	
*Dunmow	Literary and Scientific Institution	160	
Epping	Literary Institution	85	
*Halstead	Mechanics', Literary and Scientific Institution	160	
Harwich			
Ingatestone	Literary Mechanics' Institution	-	
Kelvedon	Mutual Instruction Society	40	
*Maldon	Literary and Mechanics' Institution	150	
*Manningtree (and Mistley)	Mechanics' Institution	150	
Rochford	Literary and Scientific Institution	60	
*Romford	Literary and Mechanics' Institution	200	
*Saffron Walden	Literary and Scientific Institution	117	
Walthamstow	Literary Association	100	
Witham	Literary Institution	150	
GLOUCESTER:			
*Cheltenham	Literary and Philosophical Institution	212	
Cirencester	Literary, Scientific and Mechanics' Institution	125	
Dursley	Young Men's Society	75	
*Gloucester	Literary and Scientific Society	154	
Ditto	Athenæum and Mechanics' Institution	-	110
Nailsworth	Mutual Improvement Society	-	
Stroud	Athenæum	-	46
*Tewkesbury	Mechanics' Institution	113	

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	No. of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
HAMPSHIRE:			
*Alton	Mechanics' Institution		
*Basingstoke	Mechanics' Institute	186	
Fareham	Literary and Philosophical Institution		
*Fordingbridge	Literary, Scientific and Mechanics' Institute	72	
Gosport (and Alverstoke)	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
Horndean	Institution	-	-
*Lymington	Literary Institution	174	
*Newport (Isle of Wight)	Athenæum and Mechanics' Institution	130	
Ditto (ditto)	Literary and Scientific Institute	100	
Odiham	Mechanics' Institute	78	
Portsmouth (Portsea and Gosport)	Athenæum	300	
*Portsmouth (and Portsea)	Literary and Philosophical Society	85	
Ditto	Watt Institution	220	
Romsey	Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society	-	30
*Ryde (Isle of Wight)	Literary and Scientific Institute	105	
Ditto	Philosophical and Scientific Society	125	
*Southampton	Polytechnic Institution	550	
*Ventnor and Bonchurch	Literary and Scientific Institution	180	
*Winchester	Mechanics' Institution	343	
HEREFORD:			
*Hereford	Philosophical, Antiquarian and Literary Society	117	
Ditto	Athenæum and Mechanics' Institution	140	
Ditto	Reading Association	-	300
Ledbury	Mechanics' Institution	-	30
Ross	Mental Improvement Society and Mechanics' Institution	-	36
HERTFORD:			
*Barnet	Institute	110	
Berkhempstead	Mechanics' Institution	-	
*Bishop's Stortford	Literary Institution	90	
Buntingford	Literary Institute	48	
*Hertford	Literary and Scientific Institution	8	
* Ditto	Mutual Instruction Society	-	
Hitchin	Mechanics' Institution	-	164
*Royston	Mechanics' Institute	210	
Tring	Mechanics' Institution	75	
Waltham Abbey	Mental and Moral Improvement Society	90	
*Ware	Institute	120	
Ditto	Reading Room	-	60
HUNTINGDON:			
*Huntingdon	Literary and Scientific Institution	158	
KENT:			
*Ashford	Mechanics' Institute	100	
Benenden	Mutual Improvement Society	40	
*Bexley-heath	Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge	150	
Blackheath	Literary Society	-	350
Bridge (near Canterbury)	Literary and Scientific Association	-	82
*Bromley	Literary Institute	177	
Canterbury	Mental Improvement Society	130	
Ditto	Literary and Scientific Institution	120	
*Chatham (Rochester, Stroud, and Brompton).	Mechanics' Institute	412	
*Dartford	Literary Institution	55	
Deal	Mechanics' Institution	-	
*Deptford	Institution	900	
*Dover	Museum and Philosophical Institution	187	
*Faversham	Literary and Scientific Institution	150	
*Folkstone	Harveian Institution	100	
*Gravesend (and Milton)	Mechanics' Institute	360	
Ditto	Useful Knowledge Society	-	
*Greenwich	Useful Knowledge Society	1,100	
*Hythe	Reading Society	50	
Lewisham	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	
Maidstone	Literary and Mechanics' Institution	1,000	
*Margate	Literary and Scientific Institution	100	
Newnham	Mechanics' Institution	-	
Rochester	Philosophical and Literary Institution	-	150

Appendix, No. 4.

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
KENT—*continued.*			
St. Mary's Cray (near Bromley)	Educational Institution	-	50
*Sevenoaks	Literary and Scientific Institution	355	
*Sheerness (Isle of Sheppy)	Mechanics' Institution	142	
Staplehurst			
*Tenterden	Athenæum	114	
* Ditto	Mutual Improvement Society	54	
*Tunbridge	Society of Literary and Scientific Inquirers	64	
Ditto	Mechanics' Institution	-	-
*Tunbridge Wells	Useful Knowledge Institution	180	
Ditto	Literary and Scientific Society	75	
*Woolwich	Literary, Scientific and Mechanics' Institution	400	
LANCASHIRE:			
*Accrington	Mechanics' Institution	220	
Ashton-under-Lyne (near Dukinfield)	Mechanics' Institution	-	420
*Bacup	Mechanics' Institution	294	
Blackburn	Mechanics' Institution	-	170
Blackley, Manchester	Mechanics' Institution	-	57
Bolton	Mechanics' Institution	326	
*Burnley	Mechanics' Institution	346	
Ditto	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
*Bury	Athenæum	350	
Chorley			
*Clitheroe	Mechanics' Institute	112	
Colne	Mechanics' Institution	175	
Crawshawbooth	Mechanics' Institution	-	-
Darwen (near Blackburn)	Mechanics' Institution	200	
*Denton and Haughton (near Manchester)	Mechanics' and Literary Institute	110	
Dobcross (near Manchester)	Young Men's Improvement Society	67	
Droylsden (near Manchester)	Mechanics' Institution	110	
Enfield (near Accrington)	Institution	89	
Facit	Mechanics' Institution	67	
Failsworth	Mechanics' Institution	-	120
Farnworth (near Bolton)	Mechanics' Institution	-	126
Fleetwood	Mechanics' Institution	-	142
Gisburn (near Clitheroe)	Mechanics' Institution	60	
Great Horwood (near Blackburn)			
Hartford Works (near Manchester)	Institution	-	-
Haslingden	Mechanics' Institution	-	150
Higher Hurst	Mutual Improvement Society	-	-
Hoddlesden (near Darwen)	Mechanics' Institution	-	28
Hurst Mills (near Manchester)	Working Men's Institution	-	-
*Lancaster	Athenæum	-	-
* Ditto	Church of England Instruction Society	310	
* Ditto	Mechanics' Institute	250	
*Lees (near Manchester)	Literary and Scientific Institution	107	
Leigh	Mechanics' Institution	139	
Levenshulme	Mechanics' Institution	-	50
*Liverpool	Mechanics' Institution	900	
* Ditto	Bootle Educational Society	130	
* Ditto	Collegiate Institution		
Ditto	Brougham Institute	98	
Ditto	Polytechnic Society	-	
*Manchester	Mechanics' Institution	1,600	
Ditto	Ancoats' Lyceum	90	
Ditto	Athenæum	1,500	
Ditto	Natural History Society	260	
Ditto	Geological Society	95	
Ditto	Literary and Philosophical Society	170	
Ditto	Harpurhey Institution	-	72
Ditto	Miles Platting Mechanics' Institution	154	
Middleton (near Manchester)	Mechanics' Institution	130	
Mossley (near Ashton-under-Lyne)	Mechanics' Institution	150	
*Oldham	Lyceum	300	
Ditto	Lowmoor Institution	-	200
Ditto	Hartwork's Institution	-	326
Ormskirk	Literary and Scientific Institution	60	
Padiham (near Burnley)	Mechanics' Institution	96	
*Patricroft (near Manchester)	Mechanics' Institution	50	
*Pendleton (near Manchester)	Mechanics' Institution	126	

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
LANCASHIRE—*continued.*			
Pilkington	Park Lane Institution	72	
Ditto	Institution	-	-
Prescot	Educational Institution	57	
*Preston	Institution for the Diffusion of Knowledge	600	
Ditto	Literary and Philosophical Institution	-	200
*Radcliffe (and Pilkington), Radcliffe Bridge	Lyceum and Mutual Improvement Society	70	
Ramsbottom (near Bury)	Mutual Improvement Society	100	
*Rawtenstall (near Bury)	Mechanics' Institution	200	
Rhodes, Middleton	Mechanics' Institution	-	80
Rochdale	People's Institution	-	340
Ditto	Athenæum	-	150
Royton	Mechanics' Institution	40	
Ditto	Youths' Seminary	-	65
Rusholme	Public Library and Reading Room	-	-
Salford (near Manchester)	Literary and Mechanics' Institution	170	
* Ditto	Athenæum and Temperance Hall	-	-
*Skerton (near Lancaster)	Christian Instruction Society	130	
*Staley Bridge	Mechanics' Institution	180	
Todmorden			
*Tyldesley (near Manchester)	Mechanics' Institution and Mutual Improvement Society	180	
Ulverstone	Mutual Improvement Society	-	124
Ditto	Athenæum	-	160
*Warrington	Mechanics' Institution	400	
* Ditto	Museum and Library	-	-
Wavertree (near Liverpool)	Mechanics' Institution	-	40
Wigan	Mechanics' Institution	-	100
Woolton (near Liverpool)	Mechanics' Institution	100	
Worsley	Mechanics' Institution	-	131
LEICESTER:			
Hinckley	Mechanics' Institution	70	
Kibworth (near Market Harborough)	Mechanics' Institution	20	
*Leicester	Mechanics' Institution	600	
*Loughborough	Literary and Philosophical Society	104	
Lutterworth	- - - - - - - - -	100	
Market Harborough			
Melton Mowbray			
LINCOLN:			
*Boston	Athenæum	430	
Epworth (near Bawtry)	Mechanics' Institution	40	
*Gainsborough	Literary, Scientific and Mechanics' Institution	220	
*Grantham	Philosophical Institution	100	
* Ditto	Public Literary Institution	215	
Grimsby	Mechanics' Institution	-	110
*Horncastle	Mechanics' Institution	113	
*Lincoln and Lincolnshire	Mechanics' Institute	-	333
Louth	Mechanics' Institution	-	200
Market Rasen	Mechanics' Institution	-	-
*Sleaford	Public Library	97	
Spalding	Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society	-	
*Stamford	Institution	200	
Tealby	News Room	-	-
Wainfleet	Literary Institution	-	-
MIDDLESEX:			
*Brentford	Literary and Scientific Institution	170	
Chelsea (King's Road)	West London Literary and Scientific Institution	-	333
Ealing	Literary Society	70	
Hammersmith and Chiswick	Religious, Literary and Scientific Institute	-	-
Hampstead	Library	-	150
*Highgate	Literary and Scientific Institution	225	
Kensington	Parochial Institute	227	
*London, Bank of England	Bank of England Library and Literary Association	611	
Ditto, Beaumont-square (Mile End)	Beaumont Philosophical Institution	270	
Ditto, Crosby Hall	Evening Classes for Young Men	700	

Appendix No. 4.

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
MIDDLESEX—*continued.*			
London, Bethnal-green	East London Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
Ditto, 23, John-street, Fitzroy-square.	General Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
* Ditto, Hackney	Hackney Literary and Scientific Institution	500	
Ditto, 107, Upper-street, Islington.	Islington Athenæum	170	
Ditto, Wellington-street, Islington.	Islington Literary and Scientific Society	482	
* Ditto, Sussex Hall, Leadenhall-street.	Jews' and General Literary and Scientific Institution	300	
Ditto, Kentish Town	Kentish Town Literary Society	150	
* Ditto, Dalston	Kingsland, Dalston, and De Beauvoir Town Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
Ditto, 4, Newman's-row, Lincoln's Inn.	Lincoln's Inn Fields Young Men's Educational Institution	-	-
* Ditto, Cripplegate	London Domestic Mission Society	-	-
Ditto, Finsbury-circus	London Institution	-	- 800
* Ditto, Southampton-buildings.	London Mechanics' Institution	603	
* Ditto, Edward-street, Portman-square.	Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution	-	- 400
* Ditto, 65, Carlisle-street, Edgware-road.	Marylebone and Paddington Literary Institution	180	
Ditto, Millwall	Millwall Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
Ditto, 2, Folkstone-terrace, Poplar.	Poplar Literary and Scientific Institution	60	
Ditto, Hale-street, Poplar	Poplar and Limehouse Literary and Scientific Institution	270	
Ditto, 55, Great Coram-street.	Russell Institution	-	- 700
* Ditto, 17, Old Bond-street	St. George's, Hanover-square, Lending Library and Reading Room	500	
* Ditto, South-place, Pimlico	St. Michael's Literary, Scientific and Mechanics' Institution	300	
* Ditto, Great Smith-street, Westminster.	Westminster Literary, Scientific and Mechanics' Institution	400	
Ditto, Strand	Whittington Club and Metropolitan Athenæum	1,100	
*Staines	Literary and Scientific Institution	115	
Tottenham and Edmonton	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	- 144
*Uxbridge	Literary and Mutual Improvement Society	150	
MONMOUTH:			
*Chepstow	Literary Institution	-	- 96
*Newport	Athenæum and Mechanics' Institute	450	
NORFOLK:			
Diss	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	- 40
Ditto	Library	-	- 30
Ditto	Farmers' Club	-	- 80
Downham Market	Mechanics' Institute	170	
*Lynn	Conversazione and Society of Arts	140	
Ditto	Institution	-	- 320
*Norwich (Norfolk and)	Literary Institution	280	
* Ditto	Young Men's Institute	-	- 335
Ditto	Museum	-	-
Thetford	Mechanics' Institute	97	
*Yarmouth (Great and South Town).	Young Man's Institute	170	
NORTHAMPTON:			
Kettering	Useful Knowledge Society	-	- 40
*Northampton	Mechanics' Institute	600	
* Ditto	Religious and Useful Knowledge Society	-	-
Ditto	Athenæum	-	- 100
Oundle			
*Peterborough	Mechanics' Institution	255	
Towcester	Literary Institution	-	- 54
*Wellingborough	Mechanics' Institution	94	
* Ditto	Parochial Lending Library and Reading Room.	80	

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
NORTHUMBERLAND:			
Alnwick	Society for Mutual Improvement	-	150
Bedlington Iron Works, Morpeth	Literary and Mechanics' Institute	-	100
Ditto	Walker's Institution	-	300
Bellingham (near Hexham)	Mechanics' Institution	-	50
Berwick	Mechanics' Institute	165	
Blyth (near North Shields)	Mechanics' Institution	90	
Corbridge (near Newcastle-on-Tyne)	Library and Reading Room	-	90
Elswick Engine Works, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Literary and Mechanics' Institution	80	
Haydon Bridge	Reading Room	-	46
Hexham	Mechanics', Literary and Scientific Institute	190	
*Morpeth	Mechanics' and Scientific Institution	200	
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Literary and Philosophical Society	512	
Ditto	Literary, Scientific and Mechanics' Institution	-	747
Ditto	Nelson-street Institute	100	
Ditto	Arthur's-hill Reading Room and Library	40	
North Shields	Mechanics' Institution	200	
Ovingham	Reading Society	-	20
Winlaton (near Newcastle-on-Tyne)	Literary and Mechanics' Institution	40	
NOTTINGHAM:			
East Retford	Literary and Scientific Institution	118	
Edwinstowe (near Allerton)	Mechanics' Institution	-	50
Mansfield	Library and Reading Room	-	190
*Newark	Mechanics' Institution	260	
*Nottingham	Mechanics' Institution	1,000	
OXFORD:			
Banbury	Mechanics' Institution	-	150
*Bicester	Literary Institution and Mutual Improvement Society	-	
Oxford	City Public Lectures	-	
*Thame	Mutual Improvement Society	95	
Woodstock	Institution	-	
SHROPSHIRE:			
Bridgenorth	Mechanics' Institution	-	
Ditto	Religious and Useful Knowledge Society	-	
Bridgeworth	Mechanics' Institution	-	120
Ellesmere	Institution	-	45
*Ludlow	Literary Association and Mechanics' Institute	83	
*Newport	Mechanics' Institute and Literary Society	140	
*Oswestry	Young Men's Institute	125	
*Shiffnal	Mechanics' Institution	104	
*Shrewsbury	Church of England Literary and Scientific Institution	118	
* Ditto	Mechanics' Institution	230	
*Wenlock (Much)	Agricultural Reading Society	60	
*Whitchurch	Mechanics' Institution		
SOMERSET:			
*Bath	Athenæum	150	
* Ditto	Commercial and Literary Institution	350	
Ditto	Royal Literary and Scientific Institution	-	
*Bridgewater	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	150
*Bristol	Athenæum	1,000	
Ditto	People's Institution	-	50
Ditto	Philosophical Institution	-	
Ditto	Evening Classes Association	-	
*Crewkerne	Literary and Scientific Institution	130	
Frome	Literary and Scientific Institution	120	
Ditto	Mechanics' Institution	-	
Ilminster	Mutual Improvement Institution	-	40
Taunton	Philosophical Institution	70	
Ditto	Mechanics' Institution	-	
Wellington	Literary Society	-	
Wells	Mechanics' Institution	-	80
Weston-super-Mare	Mechanics' Institution	100	
Wiveliscombe	Mutual Improvement Society	-	
*Wrington (near Bristol)	Literary Society	60	
*Yeovil	Mutual Improvement Society	162	

Appendix, No. 4.

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
STAFFORD:			
*Bilston	Institute	80	
Ditto	Library and Reading Room	-	-
Brewood (near Wolverhampton)	Public Lectures	-	-
Burslem	Mechanics' Institution	-	103
Burton-on-Trent	Literary Society	-	150
*Cheadle	Mechanics' Institution and News Room	108	
Heywood (near Rochdale)	Mechanics' Institution	-	-
*Leek	Mechanics' Institution	300	
Lichfield	Reading and Mutual Instruction Society	97	
*Longton	Athenæum and Mechanics' Institution	150	
Newcastle-under-Lyne	Literary and Scientific Institution	175	
Rugeley	Mechanics' Institution and Literary Society	130	
*Shelton (near Newcastle-under-Lyne)	Potteries Mechanics' Institution	170	
Stafford	Mechanics' Institution	-	140
*Stoke-upon-Trent	Athenæum	162	
Tamworth	Library and Reading-room	-	166
Tean (near Cheadle)	Literary Institution	-	70
*Uttoxeter	Literary and Scientific Institution	304	
*Wednesbury	Mechanics' Institution	135	
*West Bromwich	Institution for Advancement of Knowledge	-	89
*Wolverhampton	Athenæum and Mechanics' Institute	310	
SUFFOLK:			
Aldeburgh (near Saxmundham)	Mechanics' Institute	70	
*Beccles	Public Library and Scientific Institution	100	
Bungay	Mutual Improvement Society	33	
*Bury St. Edmund's	Mechanics', Literary and Scientific Institution	300	
Ditto	Young Men's Institution	-	-
Clare	Literary and Young Men's Institute	-	-
Hadleigh	Literary Institution	154	
Hatherleigh	Literary Institution	-	-
*Ipswich	Mechanics' Institute	550	
Ditto	Philosophical Society and Museum	325	
Ditto	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
*Leiston (near Saxmundham)	Mechanics' Institute	120	
Lowestoff	Mechanics' Institution	-	100
Needham Market	Mechanics' Institution	95	
Stowmarket	Literary Institution	-	
*Sudbury	Literary Institution and Museum	183	
Woodbridge	Mechanics' Institute	230	
SURREY:			
*Battersea	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
Brixton Hill	Working Men's Institution	-	-
Chertsey	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
Clapham	Athenæum	-	-
Ditto	South London Chemical and Philosophical Society	-	-
Croydon	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
Egham (near Chertsey)	Literary and Scientific Institute	-	86
*Epsom and Ewell	Literary and Scientific Institution	110	
Farnham	Mechanics' Institution	-	-
*Guildford	Institute	365	
*London, Camberwell	Camberwell Athenæum	280	
* Ditto, Leipsic-road, Camberwell.	Camberwell Institute for the Industrious Classes	-	97
* Ditto - 7, Camberwell-grove	Camberwell Literary and Scientific Institution	200	
* Ditto - York-road	London and South Western Literary and Scientific Institution	250	
Ditto - 23, Lower-road, Rotherhithe.	Rotherhithe and Bermondsey Literary and Scientific Institution	-	-
Ditto - 8, Portland-place, Borough	Southwark Literary Institution	-	500
* Ditto - Walworth	Walworth Literary and Scientific Institution	400	
Mortlake			
Norwood	Library and Reading Room	65	
*Reigate	Mechanics' Institution	145	

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	No. of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
SURREY—*continued.*			
Stockwell	Educational Institution	-	
Streatham Hill and Tulse Hill	Institution	-	
*Wandsworth	Literary and Scientific Institution	150	
SUSSEX:			
*Battle	Mechanics' Institution	56	
*Brighton	Athenæum and Young Men's Literary Union	700	
* Ditto	Mechanics' Institute	375	
*Chichester	Literary Society and Mechanics' Institute	374	
*Eastbourne	Literary Institute	72	
East Grinstead	Literary and Scientific Institution	86	
*Hailsham	Mutual Improvement Society	80	
*Hastings	Mechanics' Institution	280	
Ditto	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	60
Ditto (and St. Leonard's)	Athenæum	207	
*Horsham	Literary and Scientific Institution	52	
Ditto	Mechanics' Institution	-	50
*Lewes	Mechanics' Institution	270	
*St. Leonard's	Mechanics' Institution	195	
Steyning	Mechanics' Institution	-	
Worthing	Institution	-	100
WARWICK:			
Birmingham	Polytechnic Institution	-	547
Ditto	Scientific Institution	-	
Ditto	People's Improvement Society	-	500
Ditto	Odd-Fellows' Institution	-	100
Ditto (Bond-street)	Mutual Improvement Society	-	100
Ditto	St. Mary's Improvement Society	-	
Ditto	St. George's Improvement Society	-	
Coventry	Mechanics' Institution	-	450
*Leamington	Royal Leamington Literary and Scientific Institution	200	
Nuneaton			
Rugby	Institute	100	
Ditto	Mechanics' Institution	-	70
*Southam (near Leamington)	Mutual Improvement Society	-	
Stratford-on-Avon	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	200
*Warwick	Athenæum	273	
WESTMORELAND:			
Appleby	Mechanics' Institution	-	88
Kendal	Mechanics' Institution	120	
WILTS:			
Bradford	Literary Institution	140	
*Calne	Literary Institution	-	
Chippenham	Literary and Scientific Institution	66	
Corsham (near Chippenham)	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	50
*Devizes	Literary and Scientific Institution	170	
Malmesbury	Mutual Improvement Society	-	92
*Marlborough	Reading and Mutual Improvement Society	72	
Ditto	Literary Institution	-	
Melksham	Mutual Improvement Society	175	
*Salisbury	Literary and Scientific Institution	200	
*Swindon	Library and Literary Institution	-	550
*Trowbridge	Mechanics' Institution	-	80
*Warminster	Athenæum	350	
Ditto	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	50
Westbury	Athenæum	40	
WORCESTER:			
Brierly Hill	Mechanics' Institution	100	
*Bromsgrove	Literary and Scientific Institution	100	
Ditto	Mechanics' Institute	50	
*Dudley	Mechanics' Institution	-	50
Evesham	Literary Society and Mechanics' Institution	-	75
Kidderminster	Athenæum	150	
*Pershore	Mechanics' Institution	110	
*Redditch	Literary and Scientific Institute	100	
Stourbridge	Mechanics' Institute	185	

Appendix, No. 4.

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
WORCESTER—*continued.*			
Stourbridge	Amblecote Church of England Young Men's Association	60	
Upton-on-Severn	Mechanics' Institute	80	
Worcester	Literary and Scientific Institution		70
Ditto	Museum	200	
Ditto	Worcestershire Natural History Society		
YORKSHIRE:			
Ackworth (near Pontefract)	Mechanics' Library	48	
Addingham (near Otley)	Mechanics' Institute	45	
Adwalton (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institution	76	
Almondbury	Mechanics' Institute		30
Austonley	Scientific Society	37	
Armley (near Leeds)	Youths' Guardian College	160	
Ayton, Great (near Stokesley)	Mechanics' Institute		121
*Barnsley	Mechanics' Institute and Literary Society	255	
Ditto	Franklinian Institute	120	
Batley (near Dewsbury)	Literary and Mutual Improvement Society	131	
Bedale	Mechanics' Institute	125	
Beeston (near Leeds)	Mutual Improvement Society	40	
Beverley and East Riding	Mechanics' Institute	266	
Bingley (near Bradford)	Mechanics' Institute	370	
Birkenshaw	Mechanics' Institute	61	
Birstall (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institute	57	
Ditto	Mental Improvement Society	48	
Boroughbridge	Mechanics' Institute and Literary Society	70	
Bradford	Mechanics' Institute	900	
Ditto	Odd-Fellows' Mechanics' Institute	206	
*Bramley (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institute	86	
Bridlington	Mechanics' Institute	70	
Brighouse	Mechanics' Institute	156	
Burley (near Otley)	Mechanics' Institute	98	
Calverley (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institution	105	
Castleford	Mechanics' Institution	60	
Churwell (near Leeds)	Mental Improvement Society	90	
Cleckheaton (near Leeds)	Mental Improvement Society	80	
Cullingworth	Mechanics' Institute	75	
Denby (near Huddersfield)	Mechanics' Institution	65	
Dewsbury	Mechanics' Institution	124	
Dogley-lane (near Huddersfield)	Mechanics' Institution	60	
Doncaster	Working Men's Institute	140	
Ditto	Mechanics' Institute		200
Driffield	Mechanics' Institute	240	
Dronfield (near Sheffield)	Mechanics' Institute	70	
Elland (near Halifax)	Mechanics' Institute	71	
Esholt	Mechanics' Institute	40	
Farnley	Mutual Improvement Society		16
Farnley Tyas	Mechanics' Institution		51
Filey (near Scarboro')	Mechanics' Institution		40
Garforth (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institute	48	
Gildersome	Mechanics' Institute		
Gisburn	Mechanics' Institute	60	
Gomersal (near Leeds)	Mutual Improvement Society	273	
Goole	Literary and Scientific Institution	52	
Grassington	Mechanics' Institute	25	
Greetland	Mutual Improvement Society		90
Guisbro'	Mutual Improvement Society	70	
Guiseley	Mutual Improvement Society	116	
*Halifax	Mechanics' Institution and Mutual Improvement Society	600	
Harrogate	Mechanics' Institution	177	
Haworth, Keighley	Mechanics' Institution	100	
Headingley, (near Leeds)		71	
Hedon and Holdernesse (near Hull)	Mechanics' Institution	31	
Helmsley		91	
*High Green (near Sheffield)	Mechanics' Institution	30	
Holbeck (near Leeds)	Adult Mutual Improvement Society	176	
Ditto, and N. Wortley (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institution		143
*Holmfirth	Mechanics' Institution	150	
Honley (near Huddersfield)	Mechanics' Institution	120	
Horbury (near Wakefield)	Mechanics' Institution		40
Horsforth (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institution	59	

Appendix, No. 4.

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
YORKSHIRE—*continued.*			
Horsforth (near Leeds)	Mutual Improvement Society	64	
Howden	Mechanics' Institution	137	
Hoyland	Mechanics' Institute	46	
Huddersfield	Mechanics' Institute	750	
Ditto	Female Institution	124	
Ditto	Philosophical Institution	-	250
Hull	Literary and Scientific Mechanics' Institution	900	
Ditto	Literary and Philosophical Institution	-	300
Hunmanby	Literary and Philosophical Institution	50	
Hunslet (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institution	100	
Idle	Mutual Improvement College	54	
Keighley	Mechanics' Institution	264	
Kildwick Parish	Mechanics' Institute	67	
Kippax	Mechanics' Institution	38	
Kirkby Malzeard (near Ripon)	Mechanics' Institution	33	
Kirkburton (near Huddersfield)	Mechanics' Institution	84	
Kirkheaton	Mechanics' Institution	50	
Kirkstall (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institution	109	
Knaresborough	Literary Institution	259	
Knottingley (near Ferrybridge)	Mechanics' Institution	28	
*Leeds	Mechanics' Institution and Literary Society	2,166	
* Ditto	Philosophical and Literary Society	239	
* Ditto	Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes	-	128
Ditto (Mill-street)	Mutual Improvement Society	58	
Ditto (Pottery Field)	Mutual Improvement Society	-	
Lindley	Mechanics' Institution	-	94
Lockwood (near Huddersfield)	Mechanics' Institution	76	
Long Preston	Mechanics' Institute	54	
Longwood	Mechanics' Institution	-	80
*Malton	Literary Institution	154	
Marsden (near Huddersfield)	Mechanics' Institution	111	
Masham (near Bedale)	Mechanics' Institution and Literary Society	132	
Meltham (near Huddersfield)	Mechanics' Institution	102	
Meltham Mills (ditto)	Mechanics' Institution	58	
Methley (near Wakefield)	Mechanics' Institution	21	
Morley (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institution	195	
*Northallerton	Institute	170	
Ossett (near Wakefield)	Mechanics' Institute	100	
Otley	Mechanics' Institution	284	
Oulton (Woodlesford and, near Wakefield)	Mechanics' Institute	120	
Pateley Bridge (near Ripon)	Mechanics' Institution	73	
Pocklington	Institute of Science and Literature	80	
Pontefract	Mechanics' Institution	138	
Pudsey (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institution	226	
Rastrick	Mechanics' Institute	65	
Redcar	Mechanics' Institute	61	
Richmond	Mechanics' Institution	132	
Ripley, near Harrogate	Mechanics' Institution	39	
Ripon	Mechanics' Institution and Literary Society	225	
Saddleworth	Mechanics' Institution	144	
Scarborough	Mechanics' Institute	204	
Ditto	Museum	-	
Selby	Mechanics' Institution	200	
Ditto	People's Institution	-	300
Settle	Mechanics' Institute		
Sheffield	Mechanics' Institution	417	
Ditto	People's College	400	
Ditto	Athenæum	-	300
Shipley (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institute	110	
Skipton	Mechanics' Institution	156	
Slaidburn	Mechanics' Institute	29	
Slaithwaite (near Huddersfield)	Mechanics' and Literary Institution	18	
Sobden (near Whalley)	Reading Society	-	
Sowerby Bridge (near Halifax)	Mechanics' Institution	-	100
Spofforth	Mechanics' Institution	50	
Stanningley (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institution	180	
Thirsk	Mechanics' Institute and Mutual Improvement Society	150	
Thorne	Mechanics' Institute and Literary Society	150	
Thornton (near Skipton)	Mechanics' Institute	151	
Wakefield	Mechanics' Institution	456	

Appendix, No. 4.

NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
ENGLAND—*continued.*			
YORKSHIRE—*continued.*			
Wentworth (near Rotherham)	Mechanics' Institution	400	
Wetherby	Literary Institution	-	100
*Whitby	Institution of Popular Art, Science, and Literature	205	
Ditto	Literary and Philosophical Society	80	
Wilsden (near Bingley)	Mechanics' Institution	240	
Woodhouse (near Leeds)	Mechanics' Institution	250	
Wortley (near Leeds)	Mutual Improvement Society	54	
Ditto	Youths' Guardian College	130	
Yarm	Mechanics' Institute	55	
Yeadon (near Leeds)	Mutual Improvement Society	70	
York	Institution of Popular Science and Literature	505	
WALES:			
*Aberystwith	Literary, Scientific and Mechanics' Institution	73	
Amlwch	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	50
Anglesey	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	30
Brecon	Mechanics' Institution	-	
*Bridgend (Glamorganshire)	Mechanics' Institute	-	
Brymbo (near Wrexham)	Mechanics' Institution	-	100
*Cardiff	Athenæum	200	
*Carmarthen	Literary and Scientific Institution	107	
Llanelly	Mechanics' Institution	171	
Merthyr Tydvil	Subscription Library	120	
Ditto	Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society	33	
Neath	Mechanics' Institution	-	96
Newtown	Mechanics' Institution	-	80
Swansea	People's Institution	180	
Ditto	Literary Society	47	
Ditto	Royal Institution of South Wales	-	
*Welch Pool	Reading Society	-	
*Wrexham	Literary Institution	150	
*Guernsey	Mechanics' Institution and Literary Society	244	
SCOTLAND:			
*Aberdeen	Mechanics' Institution	550	
Airdrie	Mechanics' Institution	100	
*Annan	Mechanics' Institute	278	
Arbroath	Mechanics' Institution	-	36
Ayr	Mechanics' Institution	160	
Banff	Literary Society	40	
*Barrhead (near Glasgow)	Mechanics' Institution	130	
*Brechin	Mechanics' Institute	400	
Campsie	Mechanics' Institution	-	150
Carluke (near Lanark)	Useful Knowledge Society	60	
Coatbridge	Mechanics' Institution	-	140
*Crieff, Perthshire	Mechanics' Institution	-	
*Cupar Angus	Mutual Improvement Society	24	
Dalkeith	Scientific Association	68	
Dumbarton	Mechanics' Institution	-	150
*Dumfries (and Maxwelltown)	Mechanics' Institution	-	200
Dundee	Literary Institution	-	100
Dunfermline	Scientific Association	-	50
Dunse	Mechanics' Institution		80
Edinburgh	Philosophical Institution	-	2,035
Ditto	School of Arts for Instruction of Mechanics	562	
*Falkirk	School of Arts	275	
Forres	Literary Society	-	20
Girvan	Mechanics' Library	-	50
*Glasgow	Athenæum	1,263	
* Ditto	Mechanics' Institution	400	
Ditto	Anderston Popular Institution	300	
Ditto	Cowcaddens Mechanics' Institution	550	
Ditto	Calton Mechanics' Institution	-	500
Ditto	Gorbals Institution	-	100
Ditto	Parkhead Institution	-	150
*Greenock	Mechanics' Institution	360	
Ditto	Library and Watt Institution	200	

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NAME OF PLACE.	NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Number of Members.	
		Actual.	Estimated.
SCOTLAND—*continued.*			
Hamilton	Mechanics' Institution	-	100
Hawick	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	67
Inverness	Mechanics' Institution	300	
Irvine	Mechanics' Institution	-	24
Jedburgh	Mechanics' Institute	131	
Johnstone	Young Men's Association for Mutual Improvement	19	
Kilmarnock	Mechanics' Institution	-	80
Ditto	Athenæum	-	350
Ditto	Philosophical Institution	-	150
Lanark	Mechanics' Institution	-	70
*Leven, Vale of	Mechanics' Institution	390	
Milngavie (near Glasgow)	Mechanics' Institution	50	
Montrose	Literary Society	-	100
Paisley	Mechanics' Institution	320	
Ditto	Artizans' Institution	-	445
Ditto	Athenæum	-	200
Rothesay	Young Men's Institution	20	
St. Andrews	Literary and Philosophical Society	50	
*Stirling	School of Arts	350	
Stonehaven	Literary Society	153	
Wishaw	Mechanics' Institution	50	
IRELAND:			
Ardee	Mechanics' Institution	97	
Armagh	Natural History and Philosophical Society	-	
Ballymoney	Young Men's Scientific Association	-	35
Banbridge	Literary Institution	-	
*Belfast	Working Classes Association	600	
Ditto	Queen's College Literary and Scientific Society	-	
Ditto	Mechanics' Institution	-	
Belturbet	Literary and Scientific Society	-	
Castle Bellingham	Lecture Committee	20	
Clonmel	Mechanics' Institution	281	
Coleraine	Mechanics' Institution	-	
*Cork	Royal Institution	250	
Ditto	Literary and Scientific Society	-	
Ditto	Cuvierian Society	-	
*Downpatrick	Mechanics' Institute	120	
Drogheda	Mechanics' Institution	250	
*Dublin	Statistical Society	-	
Ditto	Mechanics' Institute	-	250
Ditto	University Philosophical Society	-	
Ditto	Library Society	-	500
Ditto	Mutual Improvement Society	-	
*Dundalk	Mechanics' Institute	160	
Dungannon	Society for Promoting Science, Literature and the Arts	60	
Ennis	Mechanics' Institution	-	50
Galway	Mechanics' Institution	-	160
Ditto	Royal Galway Institution	-	
Garvagh	Young Men's Scientific Institution	560	
Kilkenny	Literary and Scientific Institution	-	
Killyleagh	Literary Society	-	
Kilrea (near Coleraine)	Literary Society	55	
*Limerick	Literary and Scientific Society	200	
Lisburn	Literary Society	-	
Lurgan	Literary Society	-	
Mountmellick	Mutual Improvement Society	-	
Newry	Institute	-	120
*Portaferry	Mechanics' Institute	60	
Waterford	Mechanics' and Scientific Institute	100	
Wexford	Mechanics' Institute	-	

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Access to the Papers—continued.

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Alison, Sir Archibald, Bart. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Sheriff of Lanarkshire, 992——Has resided for eighteen years in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, 993——Three institutions in Glasgow, viz., the University, Stirling's Library, and the Athenæum, should decidedly possess a complete copy of the Parliamentary Papers, on condition of their keeping them bound up and accessible to the public; nature of these institutions, 993*-997. 1002. 1065-1075. 1082——It is also desirable that certain literary institutions in Glasgow should have a selection of these papers; it would be useless to give them the whole of the documents, 993*-1003——There is a great desire felt in Glasgow among gentlemen of the press and others for a complete set of Parliamentary Papers to which they might have free access, 999, 1000——The Chamber of Commerce purchase them in full, but after a time destroy the greater part as useless, 1000, 1001.

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Analytical Index. A Parliamentary Digest, or Analytical Index of all Papers and Blue Books, would be invaluable, and is much more wanted than the papers themselves, *Hudson* 691-705——Recommendation of a digest of the less important papers, *Edwards* 922-924.

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Blue Books. The Blue Books contain information quite as important as debates in Parliament, and it would be a great boon to cheapen to public libraries the cost of Hansard, *Edwards* 916-921——Suggestion that under certain circumstances the Select Committees should not have a "Blue Book" published; a condensation of the minutes of evidence should be issued instead; mode in which this suggestion might be carried out, *Morton* 1830-1833. 1837.——*See* also *Minutes of Evidence. Reports of Committees.*

Bolton Free Library. There is a free library at Bolton on the eve of being opened to the public; 6,000 volumes have been collected, and 3,000*l.* raised, and altogether the formation of this library is progressing most satisfactorily, *Edwards* 925, 926. 957.

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Chester, Harry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been employed under the Committee of Privy Council on Education since its establishment in April 1839; 236——Is also President of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, and Chairman of the Institute Committee of the Society of Arts, 237, 238——Considerable desire exists among mechanics' and other institutions that Parliamentary Papers should be distributed to them; reference to a conference on the subject at the Society of Arts in May 1852; 239-243——Witness is decidedly of opinion that the public interest would be greatly promoted by the distribution of Parliamentary Papers to institutions, 244. 252. 313——A selection only, and not the whole of the papers, should be sent, 245-251. 306-309. 336-440——The Printing Committee of the House of Commons might undertake the selection, 246——Applications from the different institutions should also be complied with, 247-249. 336.

Means possessed by the institutions to accommodate an accumulation of Parliamentary Papers; unless proper care could be taken of them the papers should not be sent, 250. 270-280. 305—— Class of papers recommended as most useful to mechanics' institutions, &c., 252. 264——Great numbers of copies of the Minutes of Privy Council on Education are distributed gratuitously by post, and are much appreciated, 252-259; 278-280——The distribution of Parliamentary Papers should also be gratuitously by post, 258. 260, 261——It is very important that the papers be sent out immediately after publication, 261-264——Reference to the number and influence of mechanics' institutions and literary institutions in the United Kingdom; there are about 750 of them, 265. 268. 277. 334, 335——Evidence as to the best mode of commencing a distribution of the papers; the first operations should be on a moderate scale; the number of members in the institutions might be one criterion as to their being eligible for receiving the papers, 266-269. 290-297. 306.

Institutions comprising less than fifty or sixty members might be excepted from the privilege of receiving any distribution of Parliamentry Papers, 269. 314——Particulars as to the Highgate Institution; the library is intended for circulation and for reference; the committee of management decide upon the class of books to be admitted into the library, 281-289. 322——Remarks upon the position of literary and scientific institutions with respect to funds; whether the premises occupied are their own, or only rented, is no safe criterion as to their prosperity, and should not affect them in the distribution of papers, 293, 294. 298-301——Objection to the distribution being vested in the Society of Arts; their recommendations, however, should be attended to, 302-304. 311, 312—— With respect to the distribution being accompanied with certain conditions as to the documents being accessible to members only, and as to their ultimate disposal, witness considers that these points should be left entirely to the institutions, and that there should be as little interference with their discretion as possible, 305. 315-327. 331-333.

Whatever Committee may be entrusted with the distribution, they should send, as a matter of course, such papers to the different institutions as they considered most useful and valuable, whether applied for or not; the institutions might afterwards make selections of other papers from the general list, 306-309. 336-340——The adoption of the measure before the Committee would probably tend much to increase the members, and consequently the funds, of institutions now in difficulties, 310——Magistrates should be subscribers to the local institutions, to enable them to inspect the Parliamentary documents, 315-317——Suggestion as to the binding of the papers before their distribution; this would recommend them to a more general perusal, 317.

Chester, Mr. H. Reference to the opinion of Mr. Chester as to the benefits to be derived from a distribution to the mechanics' institutes of a judicious selection of the papers, *Rep.* iii.

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Circulation of the Papers. The discretion of lending out Parliamentary Papers to be read by members away from the institution should be left with the managing body, *Baines* 222-229——The papers might circulate after they had been a certain time in the institution, *Hogg* 493——The different institutions throughout the country would most likely receive the papers and stow them away safely if required to do so; they might occasionally be useful for reference, but the best test of their usefulness would be their circulation, *Hudson* 647-651——It would be very advatageous if itinerant libraries or mechanics' institutions could borrow the papers from the parent institution for the purpose of temporary circulation, *Sir A. Alison* 1029-1032——Difficulties in the way of a proper working of itinerant libraries; a universal circulation of the papers is, however, very desirable, *Radford* 1640-1642.

Committee of Distribution. See *Distribution of Parliamentary Papers*, 6.

Complete Sets of Papers. Observations of the Committee as to the inexpediency of distributing to public institutions complete sets of the Parliamentary Papers, *Rep.* iii-v ——It would be quite useless to distribute the whole bulk of the Papers; the large majority of them would be perfectly valueless, and the libraries of many institutes would not be capable to accommodate them, *Baines* 131-133. 150-153. 178. 220——The annual subscription for all the papers is about 17 *l.*, *Hogg* 491, 492——It is very important that the whole of the papers be sent to the Manchester Free Library; proper room would be provided for them, *Edwards* 839-842. 910-913——Recommendation that a complete set of the papers be granted to the Dublin Statistical Society, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Queen's Colleges, *Leslie* 1171.

Some institutions should receive complete sets of the papers, and would easily find room for them, *Playfair* 1571, 1572. 1575-1577. 1595, 1596——In every considerable town there should be a complete set of Parliamentary Papers accessible to the public, *Morton* 1834——There at present sixty-seven subscribers for complete sets of the papers; return delivered in showing the daily circulation thereof for 1852-53 (exclusive of the Speaker's list), *Hansard* 2122-2130. 2206——Enumeration of libraries and institutions supplied with specific papers, or with complete sets; two complete sets are also sent annually to the French Government, one set to Belgium, and one to Canada, *ib.* 2177-2190.

See also *Selection of Papers for Distribution.*

Conditions of Distribution. The population of a district should regulate the number of papers to be sent to each institution, but the smaller institutions should not be excluded altogether, *Solly* 51-53. 61-65. 86-92——The distribution of the papers should be conditional on there being room in the institutions to receive them, *Chester* 273-280; *Booth* 373. 374. 393-398; *Hudson* 740-742——In selecting places for distribution the permanency of the institution and its accessibility to the public should decidedly be kept in view, *Sir A. Alison* 1060. 1092, 1093——The general prosperity of the institution should be ascertained before distribution; the number of members is not a fair test to regulate the distribution, *Leslie* 1209-1230. 1233, 1234.

See also *Distribution of Parliamentary Papers*, 3.

Cornwall. Return of the literary and scientific institutions in Cornwall, showing the number of members in each, whether prosperous or otherwise, &c. &c., *Radford* 1616-1619, and *App.* 200, 201.

Cost of Conveyance:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Recommendation that the Papers be distributed gratuitously by Post.*
3. *Opinions that the Expense should fall on the Institutions.*

1. *Generally:*

Those papers sent by order of the House or a Committee should go free, and those applied for by the institutions should be sent by post, the expense of which they would not object to, *Solly*, 12-23. 45, 46——If the papers were distributed separately after publication the Irish institutions would probably object to the expense of carriage, but if they were sent at the end of the Session the expense would be immaterial, *Leslie* 1148. 1198, 1199——Returns delivered in, showing the estimated expense of the transmission of a certain selection, and also of a complete set of the papers, *Hansard* 2206.

2. *Recommendation that the Papers be distributed gratuitously by Post:*

It is very expedient that the reports and papers selected for distribution be forwarded free of postage, *Rep.* vi; *Baines* 136, 137. 170-175; *Chester* 258. 260, 261; *Booth* 356. 359; *Hudson* 654. 658; *Edwards* 980, 981——Otherwise they should be sent to the Society of Arts in London, who could then forward them to their destination, *Hudson* 654——Many institutions would object to receiving them if obliged to pay the expense of carriage, *Edwards* 847, 848; *Radford* 1700-1703.

3. *Opinion*

Report, 1852–53—*continued.*

Cost of Conveyance—continued.

3. *Opinions that the Expense should fall on the Institutions:*

The institutions should contribute the expense of the carriage of the papers; they are mostly in a fit condition to do so, and would not object to it, *Hogg* 456, 457. 471–473; *Warren* 1489–1495. 1498——The institutions should pay the postage of the papers, but should receive a grant of public money to enable them to do so; this would tend to prevent any abuse of the papers, *Hume* 1877.——*See* also *Expense.*

Cumberland Itinerant Library. See *Itinerant Libraries*, 2.

D.

Demand for Parliamentary Papers. Observations as to the general desire on the part of public institutions to possess selections of the papers, *Rep.* iii–v——Considerable desire exists among mechanics' and other institutions that Parliamentary Papers should be distributed to them; reference to a conference on the subject at the Society of Arts in May 1852, *Chester* 239–243——When witness was president of the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society he read between 300 and 400 letters from different institutions expressing a strong desire to have a selection of the Parliamentary Reports; two of these letters read, *Booth* 344–347. 353, 354——In 1849 witness wrote to several public Boards, asking them to supply their reports free, and they agreed to do so if applied for; very few applications out of some fifty or sixty institutions were made; this is attributable to ignorance of the intrinsic value of the reports, *Hogg* 436–438. 441. 446–449. 454. 460–465.

About 200 of the smaller institutions comprised in the Lancashire and Cheshire Union have petitioned for a distribution of Parliamentary Papers; they have done so on the principle of getting all they can, and not for the intrinsic value of the papers, *Hudson* 610, 611. 616–618——The larger institutions have not petitioned for the papers, as there might be some expense attending them, and also as they find that there is no demand for that class of reading, *ib.* 612–615——The class of papers most in demand at Manchester are those relating to emigration, the colonies, banking, &c. &c, *Edwards* 837.

There is a strong desire among institutions generally to receive a distribution of the Parliamentary Papers; twenty-eight out of twenty-nine institutions in Devon, and likewise all the Cornwall institutions, except one, have expressed this desire; explanation as to the two institutions which do not wish for the papers, *Radford* 1631–1635. 1646. 1687–1694. 1706, 1707——The demand for Parliamentary Papers has not increased of late years, *Hansard* 2191–2193——Great number of Parliamentary Papers sold of late years as waste paper, in order to give additional room in the warehouses, *ib.* 2197–2199.

Department of Science and Art (London). The object of the Department of Science and Art, in which witness is engaged, is to bring into more efficient action the metropolitan schools already supported by Parliamentary grants, and to extend their benefits to provincial institutions generally, *Playfair* 1556–1564. 1583–1587——The Department of Science and Art might be useful in the distribution of the papers, *ib.* 1567, 1568. 1582.

Devonport Mechanics' Institute. Particulars as to the Devonport Mechanics' Institute; it is the largest in the West of England, numbering 1,278 members; class of books in the library, which contains 2,750 volumes, *Radford* 1620–1628. 1638. 1655–1666.

Devonshire. Return of the literary and scientific institutions in this county, showing the number of members in each, whether prosperous or otherwise, &c. &c., *Radford* 1616–1619. 1629, 1630, and *App.* 202, 203.

Discussion Societies. Several new institutions have sprung up since 1851, and amongst them a class termed "Mutual Improvement and Discussion Societies," *Hudson* 746–752.

Dissolution of Institutions. On the dissolution of any institution, the Parliamentary Reports should revert to the public or go to some other institution, *Hogg* 474, 475; *Hudson* 652, 653; *Edwards* 847. 880–883. 978; *Leslie* 1229. 1231, 1232; *Radford* 1651–1654.

Distribution of Parliamentary Papers:

1. *Advantage of sanctioning such Distribution.*
2. *Class of Institution to which the Privilege should be extended.*
3. *Principles on which the Distribution should proceed.*
4. *Whether it should be Gratuitous, considered.*
5. *Promptitude of Issue very desirable.*
6. *Plan of Distribution; whether by a Select Committee of The House.*

1. *Advantage of sanctioning such Distribution:*

Opinion of the Committee that a judicious distribution of the Parliamentary Papers, in accordance with well-considered regulations, might be advantageously sanctioned by

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Distribution of Parliamentary Papers—continued.

1. *Advantage of sanctioning such Distribution*—continued.

The House, *Rep.* v——The distribution of these papers to institutions would be a considerable benefit to them and to the public at large, *Hogg* 445. 467-470. 484-487——Considerable benefits would result from a distribution of a selection of Parliamentary Papers to the different institutions throughout the country, *Playfair* 1565-1567. 1578-1582. 1590-1593. 1607-1614.

2. *Class of Institution to which the Privilege should be extended:*

Institutions comprising less than fifty or sixty members might be excepted from the privilege of receiving any distribution of Parliamentary Papers, *Chester* 293, 294. 298-301——Every public institution should receive the Parliamentary Papers, without reference to its prosperity or numbers, *Hogg* 511-514. 520-526——The grant of papers should not be limited by reference to the number of members in each institution, but should be so distributed that every person might have an opportunity of profiting by their perusal, *Warren* 1485-1488——The distribution should not be confined to institutions having a certain number of members, *Radford* 1636.

3. *Principles on which the Distribution should proceed:*

Recommendation of the Committee that the distribution at first should be conducted on a moderate scale, and that the supply should, if anything, fall short of the demand, *Rep.* v——Remarks as to the gradual mode in which the distribution should commence, *Solly* 51-53. 77-81——The most practicable mode of at first limiting the distribution of Parliamentary Papers is to present them only to institutions comprising a certain number of members, *Baines* 150-165——Evidence as to the best mode of commencing a distribution of the papers; the first operation should be on a moderate scale; the number of members in the institutions might be a criterion as to their being eligible for receiving the papers, *Chester* 266-269. 290-297. 306——The distribution should at first be limited, but every institution should receive a certain number of papers, *Booth* 354-360. 362. 367.

In limiting the number of institutions at first to which Parliamentary Papers should be sent, the best course would be to take five or six institutions and select one as a centre, which on account of its position and influence should receive the papers; the other institutions should then have free access to the papers, *Hogg* 536-539. 544——In commencing a limited distribution of Parliamentary Papers, the best course would be to send to those institutions which are most securely established, and which possess the most members, *Edwards* 853-857. 875-877. 885-887. 977, 978——In limiting the distribution, the best way would be to send to those institutions numbering 200 or 250 members; mode of dealing with small towns, agricultural districts, &c.; much should depend on the discretion of the distributing body, *Sir A. Alison* 1040-1064——It would be desirable at first to limit the distribution to a certain number of institutions, *Playfair* 1569, 1570. 1606, 1607——In large towns it would not be sufficient or expedient to distribute them to one institution only, *Redford* 1685, 1686. 1695-1699.

4. *Whether it should be Gratuitous, considered:*

Great interest felt by mechanics' institutions, &c. in the distribution of Parliamentary Papers; some institutions are quite willing to pay for them, but others have not sufficient funds to do so, *Solly* 7-9——With respect to the distribution to mechanics' institutions, &c., it is very desirable that it should not be gratuitous; suggestion that the price to such parties be one farthing per sheet, *Hume* 1845-1849. 1853-1858. 1877, 1878. 1881——Many public institutions should, under certain conditions, receive the papers free; the discretion of selecting such institutions might rest with the Speaker and the Printing Committee, *ib.* 1859-1872. 1876.

5. *Promptitude of Issue very desirable:*

It is very important that the papers be sent out immediately after publication, *Baines* 176, 177. 203-205; *Chester* 261-264; *Hogg* 453. 496. 577-580; *Hudson* 659; *Sir A. Alison* 1026. 1033-1035; *Warren* 1496, 1497——Good effects that would result from an immediate publication and diffusion of the Parliamentary Papers; the present delay in the matter renders almost useless information which would otherwise be exceedingly valuable, *Morton* 1815-1833——How far the papers in the United States are distributed immediately after printing, *Stevens* 2064-2068.

6. *Plan of Distribution; whether by a Select Committee of The House:*

Recommendation of the Committee, that a Select Committee of five Members of the House be appointed at the commencement of each Session, of which two shall form a quorum; and that to this Committee all applications for Parliamentary Papers from free libraries, mechanics' institutes, &c., be referred, *Rep.* v, vi——Recommendations as to the working of the proposed Committee, and the principles by which they are to be guided in distributing the papers, *ib.* vi——Recommendation that an annual report of the proceedings of the Committee be laid before The House, *ib.*

Whatever

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

DISTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS—continued.

6. *Plan of Distribution, &c.*—continued.

Whatever Committee may be entrusted with the distribution, they should send, as a matter of course, such papers to the different institutions as they considered most useful and valuable, whether applied for or not; the institution might afterwards make selections of other papers from the general list, *Chester* 306-309. 336-340——A Committee of the House of Commons is the most obvious instrument to carry out the distribution, *Edwards* 870-873——A Committee of five Members of the House of Commons could undertake the selection, and attend to the applications of the institutions, *Sir A. Alison* 1058. 1099——A Committee of The House should send the papers immediately after publication, *Mackay* 1778. 1809——A selection of papers for distribution can best be made by a Standing Committee of The House, *Morton* 1836.

Consideration of the most desirable mode of distributing the Parliamentary Papers; suggestion that a small number be sent direct to every intitution, and that applications be made by the institutions for any other papers they may desire to possess, *Solly* 11. 33-35. 69-93——Each institution should have some agent in London to whom the papers could be sent in the first instance, and who should afterwards forward them, *Hogg* 500, 501. 532-535——Recommendation that the distribution of the papers take place at the end of each Session, *Edwards* 891, 892——The distributing body should have the discretion of sending complete sets of the papers to large towns, and selections only to the smaller societies, *Leslie* 1221-1223. 1230. 1247-1250.

Neither a Committee of The House, nor the institutions themselves, are suitable bodies to make the requisite selection, *Warren* 1480-1484——In the absence of the Speaker, and of the Printing Committee, some officer of The House might be appointed to attend to the distribution of papers applied for, *Hume* 1891, 1892——A distribution of the papers to institutions, &c., throughout the country might be undertaken at the printing-office, in a department appropriated for the purpose, *Hansard* 2194-2196.

See also *Access to the Papers.* *Accommodation.* *Applications for Papers.* *Circulation of the Papers.* *Conditions of Distribution.* *Cost of Conveyance.* *Demand for Parliamentary Papers.* *Dublin Statistical Society.* *Free Libraries*, 2. *Mechanics' Institutes*, 4. *Preservation of the Papers.* *Printing Committee.* *Public, The.* *Selection of Papers for Distribution.*

Dublin. There are three complete sets of Parliamentary Papers in Dublin, viz., at Trinity College, the Royal Dublin Society, and the Law Institution; remarks on the arrangement and utility of these papers, *Leslie* 1165-1167. 1188-1194. 1197.

Dublin Statistical Society. The Dublin Statistical Society is connected with several literary and mechanics' institutions in Ireland; conditions of this connexion; certain papers of a practical character distributed by the society are much appreciated by the institutions, *Leslie* 1104-1110. 1111. 1115, 1116. 1130-1137——The council of the Dublin Statistical Society might undertake the distribution of the papers to the Irish institutions, *ib.* 1143, 1144. 1151-1154. 1214-1217. 1230. 1235-1238.——*See* also *Ireland.*

E.

Edinburgh. Witness is not aware of any institution in Edinburgh containing Parliamentary Papers open to the public entirely without restriction; the Advocates' Library is the most accessible, *Gordon* 1729-1740——It is very desirable that there should be complete sets of the Parliamentary Papers in Edinburgh, and that they should be completely accessible to the public; this access would be rendered by the Edinburgh Subsciption Library, *Mackay* 1781-1796. 1813.

Edinburgh Advocates' Library. See *Advocates' Library* (*Edinburgh*).

Edinburgh Philosophical Institution. The Edinburgh Philosophical Institution is recommended by Mr. Thompson Gordon, the sheriff, as a fit place for a complete set of Parliamentary Papers, *Sir A. Alison* 1004, 1005. 1024——Particulars as to the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, which numbers above 2,000 subscribers, *Gordon* 1711-1715. 1718-1720. 1723, 1724——The Edinburgh Philosophical Institution are very anxious to obtain a selection of the Parliamentary Papers, *ib.* 1716, 1717. 1725——They would not object to render them accessible to the public, *ib.* 1721, 1722.

Edinburgh School of Arts. Mr. Gordon, Sheriff of Edinburgh, recommends the Edinburgh School of Arts as an institution that would be much benefited by the papers in full, *Sir A. Alison* 1004, 1005. 1024.

Edinburgh Subscription Library. Particulars as to the Edinburgh Subcription Library, which contains upwards of 16,000 volumes; how far it is open to the public; the books circulate among the members, *Mackay* 1742 *et seq.*——Remarks to the effect that the Parliamentary Papers are much wanted at the Edinburgh Subscription Library, and would be much read there, *ib.* 1758-1777. 1797-1813——The Library would willingly pay for the carriage of the papers, *ib.* 1779, 1780.

Report, 1852–53—*continued.*

Education, Reports on. Interest felt by the public in the Reports of the Committee of Privy Council on Education; considerable number given away through the medium of the Society of Arts, *Rep.* iii—— Great numbers of copies of the Minutes of Privy Council on Education are distributed by post, and are much appreciated, *Chester* 252–259. 278–280.

Edwards, Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Principal librarian of the Manchester Free Library, 774——Circumstances under which this library was formed; the first meeting on the subject was in 1851; active part taken by Sir John Potter in raising subscriptions, &c., 775. 784, 785——A separate halfpenny rate, levied for the support of the library, will bring about 2,500 *l.* yearly, and that sum will increase with the increasing assessable property, 776, 777. 781——The expenses of the management for the past half-year have been about 552 *l.*; 776–778. 954, 955——The town council have a Bill in Parliament whereby they seek further powers in dealing with the rate, being at present prevented from purchasing books, 778–783.

Number and nature of the volumes in the reference library and lending library, 786–788——Paper delivered in with respect to the lending library, showing a classification of the books issued in September 1852, and in January and February 1853; there are regulations with regard to the length of time for which each book is lent, 789–792——The books are well taken care of, and are nearly all bound, 793–795——The public have perfectly free admission to the library, and conduct themselves exceedingly well, 796–798——No account is kept of the number of visitors to the reference library, 799, 800——The purchase of the building cost 1,200 *l.*, and its adaptation came to 5,800 *l.* more; it is built on freehold ground; size of the rooms, and plan of the same handed in, 801–809.

Copy of the rules and regulations delivered in, 810, 811——The attendance of the lower classes who come to read is very great, 812–814——Reference to the excellent effects of the Libraries Act; there is another free library at Warrington established under this Act, 816. 822–826——Simple condition on which the books are lent to the public; the loss or damage to the books is very slight, 817–821——Principle on which books are allotted to the reference library and to the lending library, 827——Character of the books in the reference library, which is much the larger of the two, 828–830——The acquisition of fresh books depends on donations, which are accepted without much inquiry into the nature of the works, 831–833.

It is a great hardship on the promoters of free libraries that the framing of the Act prohibits them from re-entertaining the question for two years, 834——There is but a very imperfect collection of Parliamentary Papers in the Manchester Free Library; unsuccessful endeavours of witness to procure certain papers which he considered would be very useful, 835–838——The class of papers most in demand are those relating to emigration, the colonies, banking, &c. &c., 837——It is very important that the whole of the papers be sent to the Manchester Library; proper room would be provided for them, 839–842. 910–913——The papers should be bound, and those relating to the same subject should be classed together, 843.

The literary and mechanics' institutions in Manchester are very anxious for a limited collection of the Parliamentary Papers; manner in which this selection should be made, 844–847. 852. 863–874——If any expense were incurred by the transmission of the papers some institutions would object to receiving them; instance of this in the Portico Library at Manchester, 847, 848. 981——There should be a condition that the papers revert to the public in the event of the dissolution of the institution, 847. 880–883. 978——If the papers are distributed gratuitously they should be accessible to the public at large; the Portico Library, and many other institutions, would, however, object to receiving them on this condition, 849. 858–862. 977.

An application was made to the State Paper Office, in 1851, by Sir John Potter, for a grant of some books to the Manchester Free Library; letters from the office handed in, stating that the volumes applied for could not be granted, but might be purchased at 10*s.* 6*d.* each, 850, 851——In commencing a limited distribution of Parliamentary papers the best course would be to send to those institutions which are most securely established, and which possess the most members, 853–857. 875–877. 885–887. 977, 978——A Committee of the House of Commons is the most obvious instrument to carry out the distribution, 870–873——The library is in all institutions the great source of attraction, and wherever there is a library, Parliamentary and other papers would be very useful; class of papers most desirable to be sent, 874. 878, 879. 893–897. 914 *et seq.*

The papers should always be distributed to the free libraries, if permanently established, before the claims of any other institutions are considered, 884. 976–978. 983, 984—— In thinly populated districts itinerating libraries, or any other means of circulating the papers, would be very useful, 888–890——Recommendation that the distribution of the papers take place at the end of each Session, 891, 892——There is a collection of Parliamentary Papers in the Manchester Town Hall, but they would be more accessible to the public at large if situated in the free library, 901–904——If booksellers could obtain a profit by the sale of the papers, the circulation would be somewhat greater, 905–909——Deficiency of the method adopted by most libraries in cataloguing any Parliamentary Papers they may possess, 915.

The

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Edwards, Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

The Blue Books contain information quite as important as debates in Parliament, and it would be a great boon to cheapen to public libraries the cost of Hansard, 916-921——A great want is experienced through the gentlemen of the press not having free access to Parliamentary Papers, 920. 922, 923——Recommendation of a digest of the less important papers, 922-924——With respect to other free libraries besides that at Manchester, there is one at Bolton on the eve of being opened to the public; 6,000 volumes have been collected, and 3,000 *l.* raised, and altogether the formation of this library is progressing most satisfactorily, 925, 926. 957——The Warrington Free Library is very useful, but its means of support are very limited, 927——Particulars as to the Salford Free Library, which was opened in 1850, and contains 10,794 volumes; proportion of the different classes of works issued; there is no lending library, 928, 929. 934——There is a very valuable museum attached to the Salford Free Library, 929——A museum of models of machinery would be very useful to the Manchester Free Library, but there is no room for it, 930, 931.

The effect of the Manchester Library on the surrounding population is of a very gratifying nature, 932, 933——Remarks as to the class of literature in the greatest demand; the books taken out from the lending library are chiefly of the lighter class, but there is now an increasing demand for the more important works, and a diminution in the demand for works of fiction; class of persons who read these books, 935-947——Evidence as to the Liverpool Free Library, which was opened in October last; it contains about 12,000 volumes, a large proportion of which is of the lighter class of reading; the books must be read on the premises; character of the books in more or less demand, 948-952. 956——Copy of the rules and regulations handed in, 953——Unsuccessful attempts have been made to form a public free library at Sheffield; already a mechanics' institution and a large library exist there, 958, 959——The attempt to bring the Public Libraries Act into adoption at Birmingham has also been a failure, 958, 959——At Oxford and Bristol means are being taken by which, ere long, good free libraries will be secured to the public in those places, 958. 960.

There is a very general disposition to take advantage of the Public Libraries Act, but it requires amendment with respect to the purchase of books, and the limitation of the rate to one halfpenny; in small towns the rate should not be thus limited, 961-975——Suggestion as to the merging of mechanics' institutions in free libraries, when not able to exist independently, 968-971. 984-990——The distribution of Parliamentary Papers to small institutions would be a great assistance to many of them in increasing their subscribers, 980——It is very important that the present inquiry should consider the distribution of the publications of all departments of the State and of public Boards, as well as of Parliamentary Papers, 991.

Emigration Papers. Papers on the subject of emigration and the colonies would be of infinite service if circulated in the Highlands and in agricultural districts, *Sir A. Alison* 1094-1101.

England and Wales. List of the several literary and scientific and mechanics' institutions in England and Wales, showing the locality and name of each institution, together with the number of its members, *App.* 219-232.

Expense. Reference to the inconsiderable amount of expense that would be entailed upon the country by select distributions of the papers, in comparison with the good to be effected thereby, *Rep.* v——The extra charge for additional copies of papers for distribution would be the cost of the printing and paper, and of the carriage; estimate of the amount, *Hansard* 2200-2206.——*See* also *Cost of Conveyance.*

Ewart, Mr., M. P. See *Libraries Act.*

Extra Copies. In some instances it would be well to print off a large number of extra copies of certain interesting papers, *Hume* 1847, 1848. 1873-1876.

See also *Printing Committee.*

F.

Financial Papers. A general distribution of the financial papers immediately after publication is especially desirable, *Hume* 1888-1890.

Folio. See *Octavo.*

Foreign Governments, Libraries, &c. Return showing the foreign governments, &c., supplied with Parliamentary Papers under the Speaker's orders, *Hansard* 2177-2190. 2206.

See also *International Exchanges.*

Report, 1852–53—*continued.*

FREE LIBRARIES:

1. *General Character of those Institutions.*
2. *Claim of Free Libraries to receive Papers superior to that of Mechanics' and other Institutions.*
3. *Such Claim not Admitted.*

1. *General Character of those Institutions:*

Every person, of whatever degree in life, may enter into the free libraries, *Hudson* 720–723——Opinion that both in small and large towns free libraries will in time be established and supported by means of a local rate, *ib.* 732–735——At Oxford and at Bristol means are being taken by which, ere long, good free libraries will be secured to the public in those places, *Edwards* 958. 960——Difficulties in the way of establishing free libraries in the West of England; their establishment would have no injurious effect on existing institutions, *Radford* 1670–1677. 1680, 1681.

2. *Claim of Free Libraries to receive Papers superior to that of Mechanics' and other Institutions:*

Recommendation of the Committee that upon application from the managing bodies of free libraries, the papers should be sent to them free of charge immediately upon publication, *Rep.* v——Wherever there is a public free library a complete set of papers should be sent to them in preference to the institutions; by this means every one would have a free access to the papers, *Hogg* 480–483. 540–543. 555–564——Evidence generally to the effect that the papers should be distributed to free libraries, rather than to mechanics' institutions; such libraries should be formed in every town containing 5,000 inhabitants, or even less, *Hudson* 619–635. 706 *et seq.*——The papers should always be distributed to the free libraries, if permanently established, before the claims of any other institutions are considered, *Edwards* 884. 976–978. 983. 984——A free library has a stronger claim than a mechanics' institution to the Parliamentary Papers, *Playfair* 1571. 1573, 1574——The papers should not be distributed gratuitously, except to the free libraries, *Morton* 1834. 1836.

3. *Such Claim not Admitted:*

Opinion that public free libraries have not a stronger claim than mechanics' institutes to a grant of the Parliamentary Papers, *Radford* 1678, 1679.

See also *Liverpool Free Library. Manchester Free Library. Salford Free Library. Warrington Free Library.*

G.

Glasgow. There are three institutions in Glasgow, viz., the University, Stirling's Library, and the Athenæum, which should decidedly possess a complete copy of the Parliamentary Papers, on condition of their keeping them bound up and accessible to the public; nature of these institutions, *Sir A. Alison* 993*–997. 1002. 1065–1075. 1082——It is also desirable that certain literary institutions in Glasgow should have a selection of these papers; it would be useless to give them the whole documents, *ib.* 993*. 1003——The town council of Glasgow are anxious to possess the Parliamentary Papers, but there is some doubt as to their having room to accommodate them, *ib.* 1088–1090.

See also *Press, The.*

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce at Glasgow purchase complete sets of the papers, but after a time destroy the greater part as useless, *Sir A. Alison* 1000, 1001.

Gordon, John Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Sheriff of Mid-Lothian, 1709——Is one of the directors of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, 1710——Particulars as to this institution, which numbers above 2,000 subscribers, 1711–1715. 1718–1720. 1723, 1724——The Edinburgh Philosophical Institution are very anxious to obtain a selection of the Parliamentary Papers, 1716, 1717. 1725——They would not object to render them accessible to the public, 1721, 1722——The selection of suitable papers might rest with the managing committee of the institution, 1726–1728——Witness is not aware of any institution in Edinburgh, containing Parliamentary Papers, open to the public entirely without restriction; the Advocates' Library is the most accessible, 1729–1740.

Gradual Distribution of the Papers. See *Distribution of Parliamentary Papers*, 3.

Gratuitous Distribution of Papers. See *Distribution of Parliamentary Papers*, 4. *Selection of Papers for Distribution*, 1.

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

H.

Hansard, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—The Parliamentary Papers were first sold to the public in 1835; this was in consequence of the Report in that year of the Select Committee on Printed Papers, 2120——The price was fixed at a halfpenny per sheet, ranging over all the papers, the subscription for the complete set being 12 *l.* 12 *s.*, and for the Votes 2 *l.* 10 *s.*; 2120——Since 1835, the produce of the sale has averaged between 3,000 *l.* and 4,000 *l.* a year, 2121——There are at present sixty-seven subscribers for complete sets of the papers; return delivered in showing the daily circulation thereof for Session 1852-53 (exclusive of the Speaker's list), 2122-2130. 2206.

Members of Parliament may at any time obtain Reports and Papers, &c., by means of Speaker's orders, which are frequently granted, 2131-2138——With respect to the printing for The House, the average annual expense for each of the last five years has been about 28,000 *l.*; this comprises everything except the paper, which is supplied by the Stationery Office, 2139, 2140. 2175, 2176——The expense has much decreased in the last four years; this is attributable to a reduction in 1848 of the per-centage charges, and to printing many papers in abstract instead of *in extenso*, 2140-2142. 2144——If the papers were printed in octavo or in columns the expense would be increased; great difficulty would be experienced in issuing the daily Minutes in the former shape, 2143. 2145-2149.

Remarks as to the length of time the Reports of Select Committees, &c., are kept in type; if the copies are all sold the type is occasionally set up again, 2150, 2151. 2160, 2161——The number of Reports and Papers struck off in the first instance varies from 1,000 to 1,250 copies; any excess of this number is by special direction of the Speaker or of the Clerk of the Printing Committee; more than 2,000 copies have rarely been printed, 2152-2159——Everything is considered out of sale when the stock is reduced to thirty copies; course pursued by witness in the event of Speaker's orders below this limit, 2162, 2163. 2169-2174.

There is a discount allowance of 12½ per cent. to booksellers on the sale of Parliamentary Papers; a larger discount might somewhat increase the sale; at present the booksellers very seldom keep any stock on hand, 2164-2168——Enumeration of libraries and institutions supplied with specific papers, or with complete sets; two sets are also sent annually to the French Government, one set to Belgium, and one to Canada; return delivered in, showing the foreign governments, &c., supplied with Parliamentary Papers under the Speaker's orders, 2177-2190. 2206——The demand for Parliamentary Papers has not increased of late years, 2191-2193.

A distribution of the papers to institutions, &c., throughout the country, might be undertaken at the printing-office, in a department appropriated for the purpose, 2194-2196——Reference to the great number of Parliamentary Papers sold of late years as waste paper, in order to give additional room in the warehouses, 2197-2199——The extra charge for additional copies of papers for distribution would be the cost of the printing and paper, and of the carriage; returns delivered in showing the estimated expense of the transmission of a certain selection, and also of a complete set of the Parliamentary Papers, 2200-2205.

Harrowby, Earl of. See *Liverpool Mechanics' Institute.*

Hogg, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Formerly secretary to the Mechanics' Institutes at Liverpool and Leeds, 429——Was also connected for two years with the institutions comprised in the Lancashire and Cheshire Union, 430——At one time there were about sixty institutions in this union, but it was gradually broken up from want of support, 431-435——The Mechanics' Institute at Liverpool formerly received Parliamentary papers, through the Earl of Harrowby, which were much appreciated, 436. 439, 440——In 1849 witness wrote to several public Boards asking them to supply their reports free, and they agreed to do so if applied for; very few applications, out of some fifty or sixty institutions, were made; this is attributable to ignorance of the intrinsic value of the reports, 436-438. 441. 446-449. 454. 460-465.

Very few institutions possess the buildings occupied by them; this should be no bar to their receiving Parliamentary Papers, 442-444. 508, 509——The distribution of these papers to institutions would be a considerable benefit to them and to the public at large, 445. 467-470. 484-487——It is very necessary to make a careful selection of papers for distribution; the institutions themselves are not competent to do so, from the present catalogue; the Society of Arts, or some other central body, might undertake the selection, 450-452. 476-479. 496-499. 502. 573-576——Some papers should be sent direct from the House of Commons immediately after publication, 453, 496. 577-580.

If a regular supply of selected papers were sent to the institutions, they would very soon be fully appreciated, 454, 455. 488, 489——The institutions should pay the cost of carriage; they would not object to this, 456, 457. 471-473——None but members should have free access to the papers, 458, 459——Remarks generally as to the class of persons subscribing to mechanics' institutions; mechanics are not their main supporters; the lower classes do not join them, from an indifference to the value of

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Hogg, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

knowledge, 469. 515-519. 581-597——On the dissolution of any institution the Parliamentary Papers should revert to the public or go to some other institution, 474, 475.

Wherever there is a public free library a complete set of papers should be sent to them in preference to the institutions; by this means every one would have a free access to them, 480-483. 540-543. 555-564——Witness is not aware of any institution subscribing for the Parliamentary Papers; the expense annually would be about 17 *l.*; 490-492——The papers might circulate after they had been a certain time in the institution, 493——Difficulty of finding a set of Parliamentary Papers in Liverpool; any person wanting to see them must order them through a bookseller, 494, 495. 545-554——Each institution should have some agent in London to whom the papers could be sent in the first instance, and who should forward them afterwards, 500, 501. 532-535.

Every public institution should receive the Parliamentary Papers, without reference to its prosperity or numbers, 504-507. 511-514. 520-526——Suggestion that in some towns the papers be sent to the town hall in preference to the local institution, 520. 527-531——In limiting the number of institutions at first to which the Papers should be sent the best course would be to take five or six institutions and select one as a centre, which on account of its position and influence should receive the Papers; the other institutions should then have free access to the papers, 536-539. 544——How far the sale of Parliamentary Papers might be increased if they were published at a higher price and the usual trade allowance made to booksellers, 565-572.

Hudson, Dr. James William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Secretary to the Manchester Athenæum, 598——Is also president of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes, 599——Number of institutes and of members comprised in or represented by this union; there are very few literary institutions; mode of election of the members and of the directors, 599-609——About 200 of the smaller institutions have petitioned for a distribution of Parliamentary Papers; they have done so on the principle of getting all they can, and not for the intrinsic value of the papers, 610, 611. 616-618——The larger institutions have not petitioned for the papers, as there might be some expense attending them, and also as they find that there is no demand for that class of reading, 612-615——There is a strong feeling in large towns that a mechanics' institute or literary society is not the proper place in which to deposit Parliamentary Papers, 619.

Evidence generally to the effect that the papers should be distributed to the free libraries rather than to the mechanics' institutions; such libraries should be formed in every town containing 5,000 inhabitants, or even less, 619-635. 706 *et seq.* ——In some cases it might be desirable to have itinerating libraries, which should be supplied with Parliamentary Papers; these libraries should circulate within a given distance; machinery by which they might be worked, 636-639. 731. 736-739——Until free libraries are generally established it would be beneficial to existing institutions to supply them with the papers, 640-642——Remarks as to the circulation of books in free libraries and mechanics' institutions; amount of time devoted to the reading of different classes of books; novels and works of fiction are in the greatest demand, 643-646. 680-694. 717-719. 724-726.

The different institutions throughout the country would most likely receive the Parliamentary Papers and stow them away safely if required to do so; they might occasionally be useful for reference, but the best test of their usefulness would be their circulation, 647-651——In the event of the dissolution of any institution the Parliamentary Papers presented thereto should be returned to the donors, 652, 653——The papers should be sent free through the Post-office, immediately after publication, 654. 658, 659——If not, they should be sent to the Society of Arts in London, who could then forward them to their destinations, 654——Papers of the Board of Health, &c. &c., which have been distributed by the Society of Arts, have been referred to with much interest, and Parliamentary Papers would doubtless be also useful for the purpose of reference, 655-657. 672-679. 687-692.

Several Parliamentary Blue Books were presented some years ago to the Manchester Athenæum by Mr. Mark Phillips, but they were never used, and have since been sold as waste paper; titles of these Books, 660-671——A Parliamentary Digest, or Analytical Index of all the Papers and Blue Books would be invaluable, and is much more wanted than the papers themselves, 691-705——Every person, of whatever degree in life, may enter into the free libraries, 720-723——In some instances the Parliamentary Papers might be sent to a central institution, surrounded by others which should have free access to the papers, 730——Opinion that both in small and large towns free libraries will in time be established and supported by means of a local rate, 732-735.

In distributing Parliamentary Papers to mechanics' institutions care should be taken that there is room to receive them, and that they are always accessible to the members, 740-742——In 1851 there were 702 mechanics' institutes in the United Kingdom, and among them 408 news-rooms, 743-745——Several institutions have sprung up since then, and amongst them a class termed "Mutual Improvement and Discussion Societies," 746-752——Of late years great progress has been made in education in the manufacturing districts,

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Hudson, Dr. James William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

districts, but there has been little if any improvement among the lower class of mechanics and working men, 753——Remarks as to the benefits conferred on mechanics' institutions by amateur lecturers; professional lecturers are not in much demand, 754-765——Mechanics' and literary institutions, as well as free libraries, are the means of imparting much good, and should be encouraged in every way, 766-772——There are sixty-one libraries in Manchester, containing 225,200 volumes, which is a much larger number than can be found in any other provincial town, 773

Hume, Joseph, M. P. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has paid considerable attention to the publication and distribution of Parliamentary Papers, 1842——Reference to the Report of a Committee on the subject obtained by witness in 1835, showing the convenience that resulted from an experiment in 1828 with respect to the sale of the Votes, *ib.*——The Committee of 1835 unanimously recommended a supply to the public of the Sessional Papers at a fixed and moderate price, on the same principle as the Votes were supplied, 1842-1844——Remarks of the Committee of 1835 on the price to be charged to the public for the papers, and on the best mode of carrying out the sale, 1842——In order to avoid the accumulation of unnecessary papers the Speaker was recommended to use his discretion as to the number to be printed, *ib.*

Origin and object of the present "Printing Committee;" that Committee has not answered the purpose for which it was intended, 1842, 1843. 1866, 1867——It has, however, been of considerable service with respect to printing abstracts of returns instead of the returns *in extenso*; these abstracts are undertaken by Mr. Vardon, who, in one Session, effected thereby a saving of 10,000 *l.*; 1843——The system of abstracts may be extended with great advantage, but it cannot be applied to evidence before Committees, 1843, 1844——With respect to the distribution of Parliamentary Papers to institutions, &c., it is very desirable that it should not be gratuitous; suggestion that the price to such parties be one farthing per sheet, 1845-1849. 1853-1858. 1877, 1878. 1881——As it is impossible to make a selection of the papers that will suit all, it should be incumbent on each institution to apply for what it wants, 1847-1849. 1888, 1889.

In some instances it would be well to print off a large number of extra copies of certain interesting papers, 1847, 1848. 1873-1876——Suggestion that the evidence before Committees be printed and published weekly, as a means of calling public attention to the particular matter under discussion, 1849-1853. 1890——If the evidence were sold to the public press at a reduced rate, it would be published by them in abstract, and would produce excellent results, 1852, 1853. 1879, 1880——Many public institutions should, under certain conditions, receive the papers free; the discretion of selecting such institutions might rest with the Speaker and the Printing Committee, 1859-1872. 1876——Under the plan adopted in the United States of sending papers to all the public institutions there is considerable waste, 1875, 1876——The institutions should pay the postage of the papers, but should receive a grant of public money to enable them to do so; this course would tend to prevent any abuse of the papers, 1877.

It is useless to adopt any course to prevent the sale of the papers delivered to Members of The House, 1881-1884——There is much to be done yet with respect to the typical arrangement of the papers, 1885, 1886——It would be a decided advantage if they were printed in octavo instead of in the present size, 1887——A general distribution of the Financial Papers immediately after publication is especially desirable, 1888-1890——In the absence of the Speaker, and of the Printing Committee, some officer of The House might be appointed to attend to distribution of the papers applied for, 1891, 1892——The distribution of the papers to institutions should not interfere with their present sale to the public, 1893——Statement to the effect that it is not desirable to limit the distribution of copies to members of The House more than is the case at present, 1894.

I.

Immediate Distribution of the Papers. See *Distribution of Parliamentary Papers*, 5.

Index to Parliamentary Papers. See *Analytical Index. Catalogue of Parliamentary Papers.*

International Exchanges. With respect to international exchanges of the papers of the United States with those of other countries, Congress has frequently made grants for the purpose; observations on this subject; proposal for exchanges with this country, as authorised by the Smithsonian Institution, and by the State of New York, *Stevens* 1980-1986. 1997-2006.——*See* also *Foreign Governments. Libraries, &c.*

Ireland. The members of literary and mechanics' institutions in Ireland consist mainly of the middle classes; about one-fourth of the number are operatives and mechanics, *Leslie* 1105, 1106. 1239-1240——List handed in of thirty institutions in correspondence with the Dublin Statistical Society, and appendix of nine institutions not connected therewith, *ib.* 1108, 1109——Very few of these institutions existed prior to 1840, but since then they have grown into a sound and healthy state, and are decidedly progressing

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Ireland—continued.

at the present time, *Leslie* 1112, 1113. 1121–1129. 1260–1263——The objects of the literary institutions and of the mechanics' institutions are now pretty much the same, and the same classes of the public are members of both, *ib.* 1114.

About half a dozen institutions have between 100 and 200 members, whilst some have only 20; the number of members is not a proper criterion of the prosperity or utility of the institution, *Leslie* 1119, 1120. 1178. 1218–1220. 1233, 1234—— Witness is not aware of any reports or papers from the public departments in this country being distributed to any societies in Ireland, *ib.* 1138, 1139——A selection of the Parliamentary Papers would be of great value to the Irish institutions; class of papers of which this selection should consist; reports on emigration, colonization, education, &c. would be very useful, *ib.* 1140–1142. 1145–1147. 1149, 1150. 1155. 1175–1177. 1180. 1257–1259——There are different classes of subscribers to the Irish institutions; mode in which the governing body is elected, *ib.* 1241–1246.

Tabular return delivered in by Mr. T. E. C. Leslie, containing answers from twenty-nine Irish literary and mechanics' institutions, with respect to their number of members, terms of subscription, and building accommodation, &c., *App.* 216–218——List of a portion of the literary and scientific and mechanics' institutions in Ireland, showing the locality and name of each institution, together with the number of its members, *ib.* 233.——*See* also *Dublin Statistical Society.* *Provincial Lecturers (Ireland).*

Itinerant Libraries:

1. *Advantages of this description of Library.*
2. *Particulars as to an Itinerant Library in Cumberland.*

1. *Advantages of this description of Library:*

In some cases it might be desirable to have itinerating libraries, which should be supplied with Parliamentary Papers; these libraries should circulate within a given distance; machinery by which they might be worked, *Hudson* 636–639. 731. 736–739 ——In thinly populated districts itinerating libraries, or any other means of circulating the papers, would be very useful, *Edwards* 889–890——Advantages resulting from a perambulating library; it is a better and a more economical system than having a central library from which the surrounding district might borrow books as they chose, *Abbatt* 1362–1364. 1405, 1406.

2. *Particulars as to an Itinerant Library in Cumberland:*

Evidence as to the formation, in 1851, of an itinerant library in Cumberland, to which witness was appointed secretary, *Abbatt* 1352, 1353——The subscription is 1 *s.* per annum, which quite meets the expenses, but larger sums have been given voluntarily by some parties; there is now a fund in hand of 30 *l.*, *ib.* 1354–1361. 1395–1398——The books are chosen by the committee, which consists of the clergyman, and the librarians, of whom there are nine, one in each village where the stations are, *ib.* 1354. 1370—— Diagram showing the plan of the circulation of the books; explanations thereupon, *ib.* 1354–1359. 1365. 1374——A messenger is paid 7 *s.* for taking the case of books round; they are moved once in six weeks, and it occupies him two days, *ib.* 1354, 1355. 1360. 1432–1434.

Books of a light class of literature are mostly read; there are several books of a serious and instructive character, which are also much read, *Abbatt* 1368–1360. 1375–1377——The subscribers are not supposed to have an interest in the books unless the subscriptions are kept up, *ib.* 1371–1373——A selection of Parliamentary Papers would be of great use to the Cumberland itinerating library; agricultural character of this district; and nature of the papers most likely to be of service, *ib.* 1378–1394. 1428. 1435, 1436——Witness is not aware of the establishment of any other perambulating library besides that in Cumberland; the books provided there could be beneficially employed, after a time, in other districts, *ib.* 1399–1401——The books are purchased in London by witness, and are sent down by railway, *ib.* 1402–1404.

See also *Circulation of the Papers.*

L.

Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes. At one time there were about sixty institutions in the Lancashire and Cheshire Union, but it was gradually broken up from want of support, *Hogg* 431–435——Number of institutes, and of members comprised in, or represented by, the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Mechanics; there are very few literary institutions; mode of election of the members, and of the directors, *Hudson* 599–609.

Lectures. The lectures given in mechanics' institutes are not suited to the wants of mechanics, and are the more attractive as they are the less practical; the previous non-

education

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Lectures—continued.

education of the working classes prevents their properly appreciating lectures, *Warren* 1452-1456——Remarks as to certain lectures given by witness in different places to the working classes; he has about two tons of machinery to illustrate the practical application of his lectures, *ib.* 1457-1463.——*See* also *Amateur Lectures.*

Leslie, Thomas Edward Cliffe. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Member of the Irish bar, 1102——Is also a member of the Dublin Statistical Society, 1103——This society is connected with several literary and mechanics' institutions in Ireland; conditions of such connexion; certain papers of a practical character distributed by the society are much appreciated by the institutions, 1104. 1110, 1111. 1115, 1116. 1130-1137——The members of these institutions consist mainly of the middle classes; about one-fourth of the number are operatives and mechanics, 1105, 1106. 1239, 1240——Reference to the opportunities of witness for undertanding the nature and condition of the literary and mechanics' institutions in Ireland, 1107——List handed in of thirty institutions in correspondence with the Dublin Statistical Society, and appendix of nine institutions not connected therewith, 1108, 1109——Very few of these institutions existed prior to 1840, but since then they have grown into a sound and healthy state, and are decidedly progressing at the present time, 1112, 1113. 1121-1129. 1260-1263.

The objects of the literary institutions and of the mechanics' institutions are now pretty much the same, and the same classes of the public are members of both, 1114——The news-room is a more attractive feature than the library, 1118——About half-a-dozen institutions have between 100 and 200 members, whilst some have only 20; the number of members is not a proper criterion of the prosperity or utility of the institution, 1119, 1120. 1178. 1218-1120. 1233, 1234——Witness is not aware of any reports or papers from the public departments in this country being distributed to any societies in Ireland, 1138, 1139——A selection of the Parliamentary Papers would be of great value to the Irish institutions; class of papers of which this selection should consist; reports on emigration, colonization, education, &c., would be very useful, 1140-1142. 1145-1147. 1149, 1150. 1155. 1175-1177. 1180. 1257-1259——The council of the Dublin Statistical Society might undertake the distribution of the papers, 1143, 1144. 1151-1154. 1214-1217. 1230. 1235-1238——If the papers were distributed separately after publication the institutions would probably object to the expense of carriage, but if they were sent at the end of the Session the expense would be immaterial, 1148. 1198, 1199.

Explanation as to the non-adoption in Ireland of the Public Libraries Act; mechanics' institutions have a stronger claim than free libraries to the receipt of Parliamentary Papers, 1156-1162. 1168, 1169——The papers should be kept for reference, and should not circulate through means of itinerating libraries, 1163, 1164. 1190, 1191——There are three complete sets of Parliamentary Papers in Dublin, viz., at Trinity College, the Royal Dublin Society, and the Law Institution; remarks on the arrangement and utility of these papers, 1165-1167. 1188-1194. 1197——The distribution of the papers would be a considerable aid to the prosperity of the institutions, 1170-1179—— Recommendation that a complete set of the papers be granted to the Dublin Statistical Society, to the Chamber of Commerce, and the Queen's Colleges, 1171.

Every person should have free access to the Parliamentary Papers in the different institutions, if provided with an order from a member, but not otherwise, 1172-1210—— It is not very desirable at present to insist on the Irish institutions having a building or room of their own for the accommodation of the papers, 1173, 1174. 1127, 1228——Remarks as to the allocation of the annual grant of 600 *l.* made by Parliament to the Royal Dublin Society for the payment of provincial lecturers; objection to the condition of making the locality where the lecture is given pay 10 *l.* towards the expenses of the lecturer, besides other items for the hire of the room, lighting, &c., 1181-1187. 1251-1256——An index to the selection of papers distributed would be very useful, 1195, 1196.

Observations as to the trusteeship of the papers; the difficulties and expense with regard to trusteeship in mechanics' institutions are very great; recommendation that a provision similar to that in the Friendly Societies Act be extended to these institutions, 1199-1208. 1245, 1246——In distributing the papers the permanency and general prosperity of the institution should be first ascertained; the number of members is not a fair test to regulate the distribution, 1209. 1230. 1233, 1234—A union of public free libraries and mechanics' institutions would be a very excellent thing, and would ensure the permanency of the joint undertaking, 1211-1213.

The distributing body should have the discretion of sending complete sets of the papers to large towns and selections only to the smaller societies, 1221-1223. 1230. 1247-1250——Amateur lectures have been given in the Irish institutions, and have had a very good effect, 1224-1226——In the event of the dissolution of any society the papers should revert to the public; in Ireland they might be handed over to the Statistical Society, 1129. 1231, 1232——There are different classes of subscribers to the Irish institutions; mode in which the governing body are elected, 1241-1246

Report, 1852–53—*continued.*

Leslie, Mr. T. E. Cliffe. Letter from Mr. T. E. C. Leslie to the Chairman, dated 20 April 1853, with respect to information concerning the Irish Literary and Mechanics' Institutions, *App.* 215.

Libraries. The library is the chief attraction in mechanics' institutes; papers should not be presented except where there is a library, *Baines* 141. 221——Opinion that Parliamentary Papers would be of very great use, on public grounds, to libraries generally, as well as to institutions, *Booth* 349–353. 357, 358. 390–394——The library is in all institutions the great source of attraction, and wherever there is a library, Parliamentary and other papers would be very useful; class of papers most desirable to be sent, *Edwards* 874. 878, 879. 893–897. 914 *et seq.*

Libraries Act. Observations of the Committee as to the successful and beneficial working of Mr. Ewart's Libraries Act, *Rep.* v —— Remarks on the excellent effects of the Libraries Act, *Edwards* 816 *et seq.*

It is a great hardship on the promoters of free libraries that the framing of the Act prohibits them from re-entertaining the question for two years, *Edwards* 834——There is a very general disposition to take advantage of the Public Libraries Act, but it requires amendment with respect to the purchase of books and the limitation of the rate to one halfpenny; in small towns the rate should not be thus limited, *ib.* 961–975.

Mr. Ewart's Libraries Act does not extend to Scotland; free libraries would be very useful there, but there would be a strong objection to support them by means of a rate, *Sir A. Alison* 1076–1079——Explanation as to the non-adoption in Ireland of the Public Libraries Act; mechanics' institutions have a stronger claim than free libraries to the receipt of Parliamentary Papers, *Leslie* 1156–1162. 1168, 1169.

See also *Free Libraries.*

Lists of Parliamentary Papers. See *Analytical Index. Catalogue of Parliamentary Papers.*

Literary and Scientific and Mechanics' Institutions. See *England and Wales. Ireland. Lancashire and Chester Union of Mechanics' Institutes. Machanics' Institutes. Popular Works. Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes.*

Liverpool. Difficulty of finding a set of Parliamentary Papers in Liverpool; any person wanting to see them must order them through a bookseller, *Hogg* 494, 495. 545. 554.

Liverpool Free Library. Evidence as to the Liverpool Free Library, which was opened in October 1852; it contains about 12,000 volumes, a large proportion of which is of the lighter class of reading; the books must be read on the premises; character of the books in more or less demand, *Edwards* 948–952. 956——Copy of the rules and regulations of the library handed in, *ib.* 953.

Liverpool Mechanics' Institute. The Mechanics' Institute at Liverpool formerly received Parliamentary Papers through the Earl of Harrowby, which were much appreciated, *Hogg* 436. 439, 440.

London Agents. See *Distribution of Parliamentary Papers,* 6.

London Mechanics' Institute. The London Mechanics' Institute was founded in 1823; it once numbered 1,400 members, but is now reduced to 460, exclusive of students, *Vallentine* 1267–1269——The library contains about 4,000 volumes, which are allowed to be circulated; they are rather of a light character; class of works in the most demand, *ib.* 1270–1280. 1329–1331. 1346, 1347——Remarks to the effect that a distribution of the Parliamentary Papers to the London Mechanics' and similar institutions would be a great benefit to them and to the public, *ib.* 1281–1291. 1348——There are but very few artisans in the London institutions; class of persons comprised in the London Mechanics' Institution, *ib.* 1292–1300——The working classes do not subscribe to this institution, because of the abstruse nature of the lectures, and of the inefficiency of the library for practical mechanical purposes, *ib.* 1294. 1301–1303. 1313–1318. 1322–1343—— The subscription to the London Mechanics' Institution is 24 *s.* per annum; this is lower than the terms of subscription to any other metropolitan institution; the rental of the building is 220 *l.* per annum, *ib.* 1298. 1319–1321. 1344, 1345——The expenditure of the institution exceeds its receipts; the same remark applies to all other similar institutions in London, *ib.* 1304–1312.

M.

Mackay, John Alexander. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—President of the Edinburgh Subscription Library, 1741—— Particulars as to this library, which contains upwards of 16,000 volumes; how far it is open to the public; the books circulate among the members, 1742 *et seq.*——Remarks to the effect that the Parliamentary Papers are much wanted at the Edinburgh Subscription Library, and would be much read there, 1758–1777. 1797–1813 ——A Committee of The House should send the papers immediately after publication, 1778–

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Mackay, John Alexander—continued.

1778-1809——The Library would willingly pay for the carriage of the papers, 1779, 1780——It is very desirable that there should be sets of the Parliamentary Papers in Edinburgh, and that they should be completely accessible to the public; this access would be rendered by the Edinburgh Subscription Library, 1781-1796. 1813.

Magistrates. Magistrates should be subscribers to the local institutions, to enable them to inspect the Parliamentary documents, *Chester* 315-317.

Manchester. There are sixty-one libraries in Manchester, containing 225,200 volumes, which is a much larger number than can be found in any other provincial town, *Hudson* 773——There is a collection of Parliamentary Papers in the Manchester Town Hall, but they would be more accessible to the public at large if situated in the Free Library, *Edwards* 901-904.——*See* also *Portico Library, Manchester.*

Manchester Athenæum. Several Parliamentary Blue Books were presented some years ago to the Manchester Athenæum by Mr. Mark Phillips, but they were never used, and have since been sold for waste paper; titles of these Blue Books, *Hudson* 660-671.

Manchester Free Library. Observations of the Committee with respect to the success attendant on the establishment of the Manchester Free Library, *Rep.* v.—— Circumstances under which the Manchester Free Library was formed; the first meeting on the subject was in 1851; active part taken by Sir John Potter in raising subscriptions, &c., &c. *Edwards* 775. 784, 785——A separate halfpennny rate levied for the support of the library will bring about 2,500 *l.* yearly, and that sum will increase with the increasing assessable property, *ib.* 776, 777. 781——The expenses of the management for the past half-year have been about 552 *l.*; *ib.* 776. 778. 954, 955——The town council have a Bill in Parliament whereby they seek further powers in dealing with the rate, being at present prevented from purchasing books, *ib.* 778-783——Number and nature of the volumes in the reference library and the lending library, *ib.* 786-788.

Paper delivered in with respect to the lending library, showing a classification of the books issued in September 1852 and in January and February 1853; regulations with regard to the length of time for which each book is lent, *Edwards* 789-792——The books are well taken care of, and are nearly all bound, *ib.* 793-795——The public have perfectly free admission to the library, and conduct themselves exceedingly well, *ib.* 796-798——No account is kept of the number of visitors to the reference library, *ib.* 799, 800——The purchase of the building cost 1,200 *l.*, and its adaption came to 5,800 *l.* more; it is built on freehold ground; size of the rooms and plan of the came handed in, *ib.* 801-809——Copy of the rules and regulations handed in, *ib.* 810, 811.

The attendance of the lower classes who come to read is very great, *Edwards* 812-814——Principle on which books are allotted to the reference library and to the lending library, *ib.* 827——Simple condition on which the books are lent to the public; the loss or damage to the books is very slight, *ib.* 817-821——Character of the books in the reference library, which is much the larger of the two, *ib.* 828-830——The acquisition of fresh books depends on donations, which are accepted without much inquiry into the nature of the works, *ib.* 831-833——There is but a very imperfect collection of Parliamentary Papers in the Manchester Free Library; unsuccessful endeavours of witness to procure certain papers which he considered would be very useful, *ib.* 835-838——An application was made to the State Paper Office, in 1851, by Sir John Potter, for a grant of some books to the Library; letters from the office handed in, stating that the volumes applied for could not be granted, but might be purchased at 10*s.* 6*d.* each, *ib.* 850, 851——A museum of models of machinery would be very useful to the Manchester Free Library, but there is no room for it, *ib.* 930, 931——The effect of the Manchester Library on the surrounding population is of a very gratifying nature, *ib.* 932, 933.

List of Parliamentary Papers delivered in by Mr. E. Edwards, drawn up, printed, and circulated in 1851, with the view of obtaining them for the Manchester Free Library, showing the title and date of each, and whether obtained or not, *App.* 204-215.

See also *Popular Works.*

Manufacturing Districts. Of late years great progress has been made in education in the manufacturing districts, but there has been little if any improvement among the lower classes of mechanics and working men, *Hudson* 753.

Mechanics' Institutes:

1. *Statistics of the Mechanics' Institutes of the United Kingdom.*
2. *Their Utility; Propriety of encouraging them.*
3. *Suggestions for their Improvement.*
4. *Expediency of admitting these Bodies to a participation in the Distribution of Parliamentary Papers.*

1. *Statistics of the Mechanics' Institutes of the United Kingdom:*

Mechanics' and literary institutions are increasing in numbers every year; witness is in correspondence with 815; reference to the number of Irish and Scotch institutions in

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Mechanics' Institutes—continued.

1. *Statistics of the Mechanics' Institutes of the United Kingdom*—continued.

connexion with the Society of Arts, *Solly* 30-32, 36-38. 41, 42. 114-122——Reference to the number and influence of mechanics' institutions and literary institutions in the United Kingdom, *Chester* 265. 268. 277. 334, 335——In 1851 there were 702 mechanics' institutes in the United Kingdom, and among them 408 news-rooms, *Hudson* 743-745——There are 854 literary and mechanics' institutions in the United Kingdom; 737 of those contain altogether about 132,768 members, *Solly* 1895——Remarks generally as to the class of persons subscribing to mechanics' institutions; mechanics are not their main supporters; the lower classes do not join them, from their indifference to the value of knowledge, *Hogg* 469. 515-519. 581-597——Mechanics' institutions generally are increasing in point of number and members as regards the middle class of society, but sufficient efforts are not made to render them useful to the working classes, *Warren* 1497-1507.

2. *Their Utility; Propriety of encouraging them:*

Mechanics' and literary institutions, as well as free libraries, are the means of imparting much good, and should be encouraged in every way, *Hudson* 766-772——Everything that can be done to aid mechanics' institutes would be of the greatest public benefit; instance of the good results arising from the establishment of the Devonport Mechanics' Institute, *Radford* 1704, 1705. 1708.

Generally speaking, mechanics' institutions are little more than lending libraries, *Warren* 1463, 1464——Mechanics' institutions are but of little value to the working classes, who are not generally supporters of them; the middle classes, however, derive considerable advantages from such institutions, *ib* 1443-1451.

3. *Suggestions for their Improvement:*

Suggestion that some alteration be made in the law with regard to mechanics' institutes, as affecting the property of members in books, &c., *Baines* 144-149. 180, 181——Objection to the Legislature granting sums of money for the support of mechanics' institutes, *ib.* 219——Suggestion as to the merging of mechanics' institutions in free libraries when not able to exist independently, *Edwards* 968-971. 984-990——A union of public free libraries and mechanics' institutions would be a very excellent thing, and would ensure the permanency of the joint undertaking, *Leslie* 1211-1213.

4. *Expediency of admitting these Bodies to a participation in the Distribution of Parliamentary Papers:*

Opinion as to the favourable influence that would be exercised in mechanics' and other institutions through the means of Parliamentary Papers, *Solly* 82-84. 93-102——The presentation of these papers would tend to elevate the character and to ensure the permanency of mechanics' and other institutions, *Baines* 158——Mechanics' institutes have not hitherto been supplied by the Society of Arts with Parliamentary Papers; where Members of The House have presented them they have been considered very acceptable, *ib.* 186-188——The adoption of the measure before the Committee would probably tend much to increase the members, and consequently the funds, of institutions now in difficulties, *Chester* 310——Mechanics' institutes and literary institutions are rapidly increasing, and their prosperity would be promoted by their receiving the Parliamentary Papers; number of institutions in union with the Society of Arts, *Booth* 365, 366. 417. 427, 428——Witness is not aware of any mechanics' institution subscribing for the Parliamentary Papers, *Hogg* 490——Until free libraries are generally established it would be beneficial to existing institutions to supply them with the papers, *Hudson* 640-642——The distribution of the papers would be a considerable aid to the prosperity of the institutions, *Leslie* 1170-1179——Literary societies and mechanics' institutions would receive considerable benefits from a distribution of the Parliamentary Papers; care should be taken to ensure a proper selection of these papers, which would of themselves be a great boon to education generally, *Abbatt* 1422-1428. 1435. 1436——Unless mechanics' institutions come into closer communication with the lower classes Parliamentary Papers will not be of much use to them, *Warren* 1527-1530.

There is a strong feeling in large towns that a mechanics' institute or literary society is not the proper place in which to deposit Parliamentary Papers, *Hudson* 619.

See also *Amateur Lectures. Baines, Mr. England and Wales. Free Libraries. Ireland. Lectures. Libraries. Liverpool Mechanics' Institute. London Mechanics' Institute. Reading Rooms.*

Members of Parliament. It is useless to adopt any course to prevent the sale of the papers delivered to Members of The House, *Hume* 1881-1884——It is not desirable to limit the distribution of copies to Members of The House more than is the case at present, *ib.* 1894——In the United States there are occasional complaints against the manner in which the papers are distributed by the members, but Congress considers they are as useful in the hands of one party as another, *Stevens* 2104-2110. 2115, 2116——Members of Parliament may at any time obtain reports and papers, &c., by means of Speaker's orders, which are frequently granted, *Hansard* 2131-2138.

Report, 1852–53—*continued.*

Minutes of Evidence. In the distribution of Parliamentary Papers, the evidence taken should in most cases accompany the Report of the Committee, *Baines* 235——Proposal that extracts from, or abridgements of, the evidence before the Select Committees of The House be published in the newspapers whilst the inquiry is going on, *Morton* 1817——The Minutes of Evidence should be printed forthwith for the use of the Members of The House, and of the public generally; if published once a week they would circulate widely and beneficially, *ib.* 1817–1822. 1841——The publication of the Minutes in this manner would not increase the printing expenses, *ib.* 1821. 1830——The public journals would give extracts from them, and would bring the information home to every one; this would not check the demand for the papers themselves, *ib.* 1823–1830. 1841——Suggestion that the evidence before Committees be printed and published weekly, as a means of calling public attention to the particular matter under discussion, *Hume* 1849–1853. 1890——If the evidence were sold to the public press at a reduced rate it would be published by them in abstract, and would produce excellent results, *ib.* 1852, 1853. 1879, 1880.——*See* also *Blue Books.*

Morton, Edward. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Shorthand writer in the courts; is also a Member of Gray's Inn, and has had much to do with the Blue Books, 1814——Evidence as to the good effects that would result from an immediate publication and diffusion of the Parliamentary Papers; the present delay in the matter renders almost useless information which would otherwise be exceedingly valuable, 1815–1833——Proposal that extracts from, or abridgements of, the evidence before Select Committees of The House be published in the newspapers whilst the inquiry is going on, 1817——The Minutes of Evidence should be printed forthwith for the use of the Members of The House, and of the public generally; if published once a week, they would circulate widely and beneficially, 1817–1822. 1841——The publication of the Minutes in this manner would not increase the printing expenses, 1821. 1830——The public journals would give extracts from them, and would bring the information home to every one; this would not check the demand for the papers themselves, 1823–1830. 1841.

Suggestion that under certain circumstances the Select Committees should not have a "Blue Book" published; a condensation of the Minutes of Evidence should be issued instead; mode in which this suggestion might be carried out, 1830–1833. 1837——In every considerable town there should be a complete set of Parliamentary Papers accessible to the public, 1834——They should not be distributed gratuitously, except to the free libraries, 1834, 1835——A selection of papers for distribution can best be made by a Standing Committee of The House, 1836——Inconvenience of the present size of the Parliamentary Papers; it would be much better to publish them in octavo, 1838–1840.

Mutual Improvement and Discussion Societies. See *Discussion Societies.*

N.

New York, State of. The State Legislatures act on nearly the same principle as Congress with respect to the public distribution of the papers; instance of this in the State of New York, *Stevens* 2006–2027. 2058–2062. 2070, 2071——There are about 11,600 school districts in the State of New York, and of these about 8,500 possess libraries, the libraries being attached to the schools; the expense is almost entirely borne by the State; list of books in these libraries; mode of management, &c., &c., *ib.* 2028–2057.

News Rooms. In the Irish institutions the news-room is a more attractive feature than the library, *Leslie* 1118.

Number of Copies Printed. In order to avoid the accumulation of unnecessary papers, the Speaker was recommended, in the Report of the Committee of 1835, to use his discretion as to the number to be printed, *Hume* 1842——The number of reports and papers struck off in the first instance varies from 1,000 to 1,250 copies; any excess of this number is by a special direction of the Speaker, or of the Clerk of the Printing Committee; more than 2,000 copies have rarely been printed, *Hansard* 2152–2159.

See also *Extra Copies.*

O.

Octavo. The form in which the reports are published is very objectionable; they would be more acceptable if published in octavo than in folio, *Booth* 375, 376. 418——With respect to the circulation of the papers at present, it would be much greater if they were published in octavo instead of folio, *Playfair* 1598, 1599——The papers would be much more acceptable if published in the octavo form and bound, *Radford* 1639——Inconvenience of the present size of the Parliamentary Papers; it would be much better to publish them in octavo, *Morton* 1838–1840——It would be a decided advantage if the papers were printed in octavo instead of in the present size, *Hume* 1887——If the papers were printed in octavo, or in columns, the expense would be increased; great difficulty would be experienced in issuing the daily Minutes in the former shape, *Hansard* 2143. 2145–2149.

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

P.

Playfair, Dr. Lyon. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Secretary for science to the Department of Science and Art, 1554, 1555——The object of that department is to bring into more efficient action the metropolitan schools already supported by Parliamentary grants, and to extend their benefits to provincial institutions generally, 1556-1564. 1583-1587——Considerable benefits would result from a distribution of a selection of Parliamentary papers to the different institutions throughout the country, 1565-1567. 1578-1582. 1590-1593. 1607-1614——The Department of Science and Art might be useful in the distribution of the papers, 1567, 1568. 1582.

It would be desirable at first to limit the distribution to a certain number of institutions, 1569, 1570. 1606, 1607——A free library has a stronger claim than a mechanics' institute to the Parliamentary Papers, 1571. 1573, 1574——Some institutions should receive complete sets of the papers, and would easily find room for them, 1571, 1572. 1575-1577. 1595, 1596.

Mode in which the selection of proper papers for distribution might be made; the institutions themselves might make their wants known through the distributing body, 1588, 1589. 1606——Objections to rendering it imperative on the institutions to provide a separate room for the papers, and to allow the public at large free access to them, 1594. 1600-1605——It would be very important if each institution kept an index of the Parliamentary Papers in its possession, 1595, 1596——With respect to the circulation of the papers at present, it would be much greater if they were published in octavo instead of in folio, 1598, 1599.

Popular Works. Remarks as to the circulation of books in free libraries and mechanics' institutions; amount of time devoted to the reading of different classes of books; novels and works of fiction are in the greatest demand, *Hudson* 643-646. 680-694. 717-719. 724-726——Remarks as to the class of literature in the greatest demand in the Manchester Free Library; the books taken out from the leading library are chiefly of the lighter class, but there is now an increasing demand for the more important works, and a diminution in the demand for works of fiction; class of persons who read these books, *Edwards* 935-947.

Population. See *Conditions of Distribution.*

Portico Library (*Manchester*). The Portico Library would object to pay for the transmission of the papers, and would also object to rendering them accessible to the public at large, *Edwards* 847-849.

Postage. See *Cost of Conveyance.*

Preservation of the Papers. Recommendation of the Committee that each volume of papers distributed bear a stamp, stating that it is to be preserved in the institution, *Rep.* vi——As old papers are scarcely of any value, it is not worth while to secure them to the public, in the event of the dissolution of the institution, but there should be some condition to prevent any improper use being made of them, *Baines* 143. 178. 229-231——The institutions should be allowed to exercise their own dsicretion as to the ultimate disposal of the papers, and the use generally to be made of them, *Chester* 319-327——It should be a condition that the reports should not be sold in the event of the institution being dissolved, nor should they be destroyed after any length of time, *Booth* 374-381. 403-405——There is no condition exacted in the United States with respect to the preservation of the papers and reports by the parties to whom they are sent, *Stevens* 1943-1947.

See also *Access to the Papers. Accommodation. Binding the Papers. Dissolution of Societies.*

Press, The. A great want is experienced through the gentlemen of the press not having free access to Parliamentary papers, *Edwards* 920. 922, 923——There is a great desire felt in Glasgow among gentlemen of the press and others for a complete set of Parliamentary Papers to which they might have free access, *Sir A. Alison*, 999, 1000.

Price of the Papers. Remarks of the Committee of 1835 on the price to be charged to the public for the papers, and on the best mode of carrying out the sale, *Hume* 1842——The price was fixed at a halfpenny per sheet, ranging over all the papers, the subscription for the complete set being 12 *l.* 12 *s.*, and for the Votes 2 *l.* 10 *s.*, *Hansard* 2120.

See also *Sale of the Papers.*

Printing Committee. Recommendation that the Printing Committee make arrangements for the additional number of copies of the papers which the Committee of Distribution may report to The House as being required, *Rep.* vi——The Printing Committee of the House of Commons might undertake the selection, *Chester* 246——Observations as to the origin and object of the present "Printing Committee;" that Committee has not answered the purpose for which it was intended, *Hume* 1842, 1843. 1866, 1867——It has, however, been of considerable service with respect to printing abstracts of returns instead of the returns *in extenso*; these abstracts are undertaken by Mr. Vardon, who, in one Session, effected thereby a saving of 10,000 *l. ib.* 1843, 1844.

Printing

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Printing Expenses. With respect to the printing for The House, the average annual expense for each of the last five years has been about 28,000 *l.*; this comprises everything except the paper, which is supplied by the Stationery Office, *Hansard* 2139, 2140. 2175, 2176 ——The expense has much decreased in the last four years; this is attributable to a reduction in 1848 of the per-centage charges, and to printing many papers in abstract instead of *in extenso*, *ib.* 2140-2142. 2144.

Promptitude of Distribution. See *Distribution of Parliamentary Papers*, 5.

Provincial Lecturers (*Ireland.*) Remarks as to the allocation of the annual grant of 600*l.* made by Parliament to the Royal Dublin Society for the payment of the provincial lecturers; objections to the condition of making the locality where the lecture is given pay 10*l.* towards the expense of the lecturer, besides other items for the hire of the room, lighting, &c., *Leslie* 1181-1187. 1251-1256.

Public, The. Remarks of the Committee relative to the advantages to be derived by the public from a perusal of a judicious selection of the Parliamentary Papers, *Rep.* iii-v ——Witness is decidedly of opinion that the public interest would be greatly promoted by the distribution of Parliamentary Papers to institutions, *Chester* 242. 252. 313.

Publication of Papers. Much inconvenience arises from the mode in which the papers are published and sold; how far the prices of some papers should be altered, *Solly* 103-112 ——How far the present mode in which papers are sold and obtainable renders them inaccessible to the public, *Baines* 206-210.

Public Libraries. See *Libraries Act.*

R.

Radford, Isaiah Can. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—One of the honorary secretaries to the Devonport Mechanics' Institute, 1615——Delivers in a return of the literary and scientific institutions in Devon, showing the number of members in each, whether prosperous or otherwise, &c. &c., 1616-1619. 1629, 1630——Delivers in a similar return with respect to the institutions in Cornwall, 1616-1619——Particulars as to the Devonport Mechanics' Institute; it is the largest in the West of England, numbering 1,278 members; class of books in the library, which contains about 2,750 volumes, 1620-1628. 1638. 1655-1666.

There is a strong desire among institutions generally to receive a distribution of the Parliamentary Papers; twenty-eight out of twenty-nine institutions in Devon, and likewise all the Cornwall institutions, except one, have expressed this desire; explanation as to the two institutions which do not wish for the papers, 1631-1635. 1646. 1687-1694. 1706, 1707——The distribution should not be confined to institutions having a certain number of members, 1636——Suggestion that the institutions make applications for the papers, stating at the same time their claims to receive them; if they have no room for them they will not apply, 1637.

The papers would be much more acceptable if published in the octavo form and bound, 1639——Difficulties in the way of a proper working of itinerant libraries; a universal circulation of the papers is, however, very desirable, 1640-1642——Remarks as to a suggestion made by witness to the Society of Arts that a complete list of all the Parliamentary Papers be sent to the different institutions to guide them in their applications for the papers, 1643-1650. 1669——There should be a condition that the papers revert to the public in the event of the dissolution of the institution, 1651-1654——A judicious selection of Parliamentary Papers would decidedly be much read by the members of mechanics' institutions, 1666-1668. 1682. 1687-1694.

Difficulty in the way of establishing free libraries in the West of England; their establishment would have no injurious effect on existing institutions, 1670-1677. 1680, 1681 ——Opinion that public free libraries have not a stronger claim than mechanics' institutes to a grant of the Parliamentary Papers, 1678, 1679——A separate room for the papers should not be insisted on, 1684——In large towns it would not be sufficient or expedient to distribute them only to one institution, 1685, 1686. 1695-1699——Many institutions would object to receiving them if obliged to pay the expense of carriage, 1700-1703—— Everything that can be done to aid mechanics' institutes would be of the greatest public benefit; instance of the good results arising from the establishment of the Devonport Mechanics' Institute, 1704, 1705. 1708.

Reading Rooms. Reading-rooms are in some instances becoming more popular than mechanics' institutes; instance of this at Penrith in Cumberland, *Abbatt* 1429-1431.

Reference Purposes. Papers of the Board of Health, &c. &c. which have been distributed by the Society of Arts have been referred to with much interest, and Parliamentary Papers would, doubtless, be also useful for the purpose of reference, *Hudson* 672-679. 687-692 ——The larger institutions in Glasgow would not circulate the papers; it is better to keep them entirely for reference, *Sir A. Alison* 1071-1075——The papers should be kept for reference, and should not circulate through means of itinerating libraries, *Leslie* 1163, 1164. 1190, 1191.

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Reports of Committees. Instead of circulating the papers in their present form, it would be very desirable to give the pith of the evidence in the Reports of the Committee, and to circulate the latter only, *Warren* 1528. 1531-1541——Remarks as to the length of time the Reports of Select Committees, &c. are kept in type; if the copies are all sold the type is occasionally set up again, *Hansard* 2150, 2151. 2160, 2161.

See also *Blue Books.*

Reserve Stock. Everything is considered out of sale when the stock is reduced to thirty copies; course pursued by witness in the event of Speaker's orders below this limit, *Hansard* 2162, 2163. 2169-2174.

Royal Agricultural Society (Edinburgh). A selection of the papers would be very useful to the Royal Agricultural Society of Edinburgh, *Sir A. Alison* 1018-1022.

S.

Sale of Parliamentary Papers. The Committee of 1835 unanimously recommended a supply to the public of the Sessional Papers at a fixed and moderate price, on the same principle as the Votes were supplied, *Hume* 1842-1844——The distribution of papers to institutions should not interfere with their present sale to the public, *ib.* 1893——The Parliamentary Papers were first sold to the public in 1835; this was in consequence of the Report in that year of the Select Committee on Printed Papers, *Hansard* 2120——Since 1835 the produce of the sale has averaged between 3,000 *l.* and 4,000 *l.* a year, *ib.* 2121.

See also *Booksellers. Price of the Papers.*

Salford Free Library. Particulars as to the Salford Free Library, which was opened in 1850, and contains 10,794 volumes; proportion of the different classes of works issued; there is no lending library, *Edwards* 928, 929. 934——There is a very valuable museum attached to the library, *ib.* 929.

Scotland. Letters to witness from the sheriffs-substitute at Greenock, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Paisley, state that the Parliamentary Papers are much needed at institutions in those towns; these letters read, *Sir A. Alison* 1023-1025——The smaller institutions in Scotland would object to paying for the carriage of the papers, but the larger ones would willingly bear this expense, and would afterwards lend the papers to the former, *ib.* 1036-1039——Advantages that would result to the public from a proper acquaintance with Parliamentary Papers; fifteen complete sets would be necessary for all Scotland, and the applications of smaller institutions should likewise be attended to, *ib.* 1061-1064. 1082 *et seq.*

List of a portion of the literary and scientific and mechanics' institutions in Scotland, showing the locality and name of each institution, together with the number of its members, *App.* 232, 233.

See also *Edinburgh. Edinburgh Philosophical Institution. Edinburgh School of Arts. Edinburgh Subscription Library. Glasgow. Royal Agricultural Society (Edinburgh).*

Selection of Papers for Distribution:

1. *A judicious Selection, rather than an indiscriminate Distribution of Papers, an essential point.*
2. *By whom this Selection should be undertaken.*

1. *A judicious Selection, rather than an indiscriminate Distribution of Papers, an essential point:*

Observations of the Committee as to the advantages to be expected from a judicious selection and distribution of the Parliamentary Papers, *Rep.* iii-v——Necessity of proper care being exercised in a judicious selection of papers for distribution, *ib.* v.

Remarks as to the papers most desired by the institutions; all those which are not of a local or temporary interest would be the most useful, *Solly* 10. 28, 29. 54-60. 66-68——About ten per cent. of all the Parliamentary Papers printed would be valuable to institutions generally, *ib.* 59——A good selection of Parliamentary Papers is more important to the institutions than a gratuitous distribution of them, *ib.* 113——Class of Parliamentary Papers that would be most useful and most acceptable to mechanics' institutions, *Baines* 138-140. 179. 182-185; *Chester* 252. 264——If a selection of papers of a permanently useful character were made for gratuitous presentation to different societies, private parties would doubtless come forward as subscribers to that particular selection, *ib.* 211-213.

A selection only and not the whole of these papers should be distributed, *Chester* 245-251. 306-309. 336-340——If a regular supply of selected papers were sent to the institutions they would very soon be fully appreciated, *Hogg* 454, 455. 488, 489——The literary and mechanics' institutions in Manchester are very anxious for a limited selection of the Parliamentary Papers; manner in which this selection should be made, *Edwards*

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Selection of Papers for Distribution—continued.

1. *A judicious Selection, rather than an indiscriminate Distribution, &c.*—continued.

Edwards 844-847. 852. 863-874——A judicious selection of Parliamentary Papers would increase the utility of mechanics' institutions, and would, after a time, be very beneficial to the working classes, *Warren* 1464-1468. 1523——A judicious selection of Parliamentary Papers would decidedly be much read by the members of mechanics' institutions, *Radford* 1666-1668. 1682. 1687-1694.

2. *By whom this Selection should be undertaken:*

The selection of fitting papers should rest with the House of Commons, or the Printing Committee, with advice from the Society of Arts, or any other body considered competent to give it, *Booth* 348. 359. 370. 380. 420-426——Considerable care is necessary for a proper selection, and the papers should be attentively examined before distribution; the institutions themselves should not make the selection; nature of the reports most desirable to be sent, *ib.* 354, 355. 359. 363, 364. 368-372. 377-379. 382-390. 409—— It is very necessary to make a careful selection of papers for distribution; the institutions themselves are not competent to do so from the present catalogue; the Society of Arts, or some other central body, might undertake the selection, *Hogg* 450-452. 476-479. 496-499. 502. 573-576——The selection of suitable papers might rest with the managing committee of the institution, *Gordon* 1726-1728.

See also *Applications for Papers.* *Complete Sets of Papers.*

Sheffield. Unsuccessful attempts have been made to form a public free library at Sheffield; already a mechanics' institution and a large library exist there, *Edwards* 958, 959.

Shrewsbury Mechanics' Institute. See *Booth, Dr.*

Small Institutions. The distribution of Parliamentary papers to small institutions would be a great assistance to many of them in increasing their subscribers, *Edwards* 980——With respect to the smaller institutions generally, they should be allowed to select for themselves; class of papers most likely to be useful to these institutions, *Sir A. Alison* 1027, 1028.

Smithsonian Institution (*United States*). Reference to the Smithsonian Institution; their income is about 40,000 dollars per annum, *Stevens* 1997-2005.

Society of Arts. In consequence of a meeting in London in May last, 252 literary and mechanics' institutions have formed a union in connexion with the society of Arts; they each pay two guineas annually to the funds of the Society, and receive in return more than the value in books, &c., *Solly* 3-16. 15-17. 41, 42. 106——The distribution of papers should take place through some body in London, independently of subsequent applications by the institutions themselves; how far the Society of Arts might be made useful in the matter, *ib.* 35. 47-50. 69-72——The selection and distribution of suitable papers should be left to a Committee of the House of Commons, or to the Society of Arts; the latter is perhaps the more proper body to undertake the work, *Baines* 134, 135. 192-203. 214-218——Objection to the distribution being vested in the Society of Arts; their recommendations, however, should be attended to, *Chester* 302-304. 311. 312.

Solly, Edward, F.R.S. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Secretary to the Society of Arts in London, 1——In that capacity has had frequent communication with mechanics' and literary and scientific institutions, 2——In consequence of a meeting in London in May last, 252 of these institutions have formed a union in connexion with the Society of Arts; they each pay two guineas annually to the funds of the society, and receive in return more than the value in books, &c., 3-6. 15-17. 41, 42, 106——Great interest felt by mechanics' institutions, &c., in the distribution of Parliamentary Papers; some institutions are quite willing to pay for them, but others have not sufficient funds to do so, 7-9—— Remarks as to the papers most desired by the institutions; all those which are not of a local or temporary interest would be the most useful, 10. 28, 29. 54-60. 66-68.

Consideration of the most desirable mode of distributing Parliamentary Papers; suggestion that a small number be sent direct to every institution, and that applications be made by the institutions for any other papers they may desire to possess, 11, 33-35. 69-93——Those papers sent by order of The House, or a Committee, should go free, and those applied for by the institutions should be sent by post, the expense of which they would not object to, 12-23, 45, 46——There would be no want of accommodation or shelf-room in the institutions to receive the Parliamentary papers, 24-27——Mechanics' and literary institutions are increasing in number every year; witness is in correspondence with 815; reference to the number of Irish and Scotch institutions in connexion with the Society of Arts, 30-32. 36-38. 41, 42. 114-122.

The present catalogue of Parliamentary papers does not give sufficient information of the nature of the documents; suggestion on this point, 33, 34. 46. 73——The distribution of papers should take place through some body in London, independently of subsequent applications by the institutions themselves; how far the Society of Arts might be made useful

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Solly, Edward, F.R.S. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

useful in the matter, 35. 47-50. 69-72——The public generally should have access to the papers in the institutions, and in the event of the dissolution of the latter there should be a condition that the papers could not be sold, 43. 44. 94-99—— Remarks as to the gradual mode in which the distribution should commence, 51-53. 77-81.

The population of a district should regulate the number of papers to be sent to each institution, but the smaller institutions should not be excluded altogether, 51-53. 61-65. 86-92——About ten per cent. of all the Parliamentary papers printed would be valuable to institutions generally, 59——Opinion as to the favourable influence that would be exercised on mechanics' and other institutions through means of Parliamentary Papers, 82-84, 93. 102——Much inconvenience arises from the mode in which the papers are published and sold; how far the prices of some papers should be altered, 103-112——A good selection of Parliamentary Papers is more important to the institutions than a gratuitous distribution of them, 113.

[Second Examination.]—There are 854 literary and mechanics' institutions in the United Kingdom; 737 of these contain altogether about 132,768 members, 1895—— Witness delivers in a letter from Mr. Stansbury, of Washington, respecting the distribution of Government papers by Congress in the United States of America; this letter read, 1896-1898.

Speaker's Orders. See *Foreign Governments. Libraries, &c. Members of Parliament.*

State, &c., Papers. It is very important that the present inquiry should consider the distribution of the publications of all departments of the State and of public Boards, as well as of Parliamentary Papers, *Edwards* 991.

Stevens, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Literary Agent to the Smithsonian Institution in the United States, 1899, 1900——Evidence as to the mode in which the debates of Congress are published and distributed; each member has twelve copies given to him gratuitously, which he distributes as he pleases, 1900-1913——Particulars with respect to the system adopted in the distribution and circulation of reports of Select Committees and other papers laid before Congress, 1914 *et seq.*——When any paper is ordered to be printed, 1,500 copies are struck off as a matter of course; mode in which they are distributed, 1914-1916——At the end of the Session each member receives for his own use a complete set of the papers ready bound, 1914, 1915. 2117-2119——If extra copies of a paper are wanted, which is often the case, they are printed by special vote; number of extra copies voted in 1849; 1914, 1917-1921——A certain number is sent for distribution to each member, who by franking them can distribute them post-free wherever he chooses, 1917-1925. 1952-1954. 2069. 2109——The papers as distributed by the members, to institutions or individuals, are much appreciated, 1926, 1927.

In Select Committees the evidence is not printed in full, but is represented by a very ample Report of the Committee, 1928-1936——The proceedings before the Committee are not daily laid before the public, nor is there free access to the committee-room, 1937-1942. 2074-2079——There is no condition exacted with respect to the preservation of the papers and reports by the parties to whom they are sent, 1943-1947——It is provided that all colleges and institutions which are incorporated shall receive a bound set of all the documents; the incorporation is easily obtained, 1948-1951. 1958-1960. 2111-2114——The annual expense to Congress of printing the papers may be estimated at about 100,000 *l.*; instances of other documents besides those of the State being printed and distributed at the expense of Congress; this expense is not included in the 100,000*l.*; 1956. 1961-1979.

Mode in which the Statutes at Large are now printed and published; parties to whom, and conditions under which they are distributed; they have become much cheaper since they have been stereotyped, 1971-1979——With respect to international exchanges of the papers of the United States with those of other countries, Congress has frequently made grants for the purpose; proposal for exchanges with this country; observations on this subject, 1980-1986. 1997-2006——Circumstance of each member of Congress being allowed to subscribe, at the expense of Government, for thirty dollars' worth of periodicals every Session, 1987-1996——Reference to the Smithsonian Institution; their income is about 40,000 dollars per annum, 1997-2005——The State Legislatures act on nearly the same principle as Congress with respect to the publication and distribution of the papers; instance of this in the State of New York, 2006-2027. 2058-2062. 2070, 2071.

There are 11,600 school districts in the State of New York, and of these about 8,500 possess libraries, the libraries being attached to schools; the expense is almost entirely borne by the State; list of books in these libraries; mode of management, &c. &c., 2028-2057——It costs Congress more than 10,000 dollars a year for the mere carriage and distribution of its laws, 2060-2062——The papers would be hardly valued at all unless they were bound before being distributed, 2063——How far they are distributed immediately after printing, 2064-2068——As a general rule, the cost of a book to the public in America is one-third cheaper than in England; reason of this, 2080-2091——If

papers

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Stevens, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

papers five or ten years old are wanted, there is not much difficulty in supplying them, but the State does not keep a large depository, 2092–2097.

It is required by law that the Secretary of State shall have all the laws published in two newspapers in each State every year; there is an annual grant for this purpose, 2098–2102——The Congressional books are bound yearly, in about twenty-five volumes, 2103——There are occasional complaints against the manner in which the papers are distributed by the members, but Congress considers they are as useful in the hands of one party as of another, 2104–2110. 2115, 2116.

T.

Town Halls. Suggestion that in some towns the papers be sent to the town hall in preference to the local institution, *Hogg* 520. 527–531.

Trusteeship of the Papers. Observations as to the trusteeship of the papers; the difficulties and expense with regard to trusteeship in mechanics' institutions are very great; recommendation that a provision similar to that in the Friendly Societies Act be extended to these institutions, *Leslie* 1199–1208. 1245, 1246.

Type. There is much to be done yet with respect to the typical arrangement of the papers, *Hume* 1885, 1886.

U.

United States. Reference to the distribution of papers by Congress and by the State Legislatures as having been productive of much public benefit, *Rep.* v——Under the plan adopted in the United States of sending papers to all the public institutions, there is a considerable waste, *Hume* 1875, 1876——Witness delivers in a letter from Mr. Stansbury, of Washington, respecting the distribution of Government papers by Congress in the United States of America; this letter read, *Solly* 1896–1898——Evidence as to the mode in which the debates of Congress are published and distributed; each member has twelve copies given to him gratuitously, which he distributes as he pleases, *Stevens* 1900–1913——Particulars with respect to the system adopted in the distribution and circulation of reports of Select Committees and other papers laid before Congress, *ib.* 1914 *et seq.*

When any paper is ordered to be printed, 1,500 copies are struck off as a matter of course; mode in which they are distributed, *Stevens* 1914–1916——At the end of every Session each Member receives for his own use a complete set of the papers ready bound, *ib.* 1914, 1915. 2117–2119——If extra copies of papers are wanted, which is often the case, they are printed by special vote; number of extra copies voted in 1849, *ib.* 1914. 1917–1921——A certain number is sent for distribution to each member, who by franking them can distribute them post-free wherever he chooses, *ib.* 1917–1925. 1952–1954. 2069. 2109——The papers as distributed by the Members, either to institutions or individuals, are much appreciated, *ib.* 1926, 1927.

In Select Committees the evidence is not printed in full, but is represented by a very ample report of the Committee, *Stevens* 1928–1936——The proceedings before the Committee are not daily laid before the public, nor is there free access to the committee-room, *ib.* 1937–1942. 2074–2079——It is provided that all colleges and institutions which are incorporated shall receive a bound set of all the documents; the incorporation is easily obtained, *ib.* 1948–1951. 1958–1960. 2111–2114——The annual expense to Congress of printing the papers may be estimated at about 100,000 *l.*; instances of other documents besides those of the State being printed and distributed at the expense of Congress; this expense is not included in the 100,000 *l.*, *ib.* 1956. 1961–1979——Mode in which the Statutes at Large are now printed and published; parties to whom, and conditions under which they are distributed; they have become much cheaper since they have been stereotyped, *ib.* 1971–1979.

Circumstance of each member of Congress being allowed to subscribe, at the expense of the Government, for 30 dollars' worth of periodicals every Session, *Stevens* 1987–1996——It costs Congress more than 10,000 dollars a year for the mere carriage and distribution of its laws, *ib.* 2060–2062——As a general rule, the cost of a book to the public is one-third cheaper in America than in England; reason for this, *ib.* 2080–2091——If papers five or ten years old are wanted, there is not much difficulty in supplying them, but the State does not keep a large depository, *ib.* 2092–2097——It is required by law that the Secretary of State shall have all the laws published in two newspapers in each State every year; there is an annual grant for this purpose, *ib.* 2098–2102——The Congressional books are bound yearly, in about twenty-five volumes, *ib.* 2103.

See also *Binding the Papers. Members of Parliament. Smithsonian Institution.*

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

V.

Vallentine, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Member of the London Mechanics' Institute and one of the committee of management, 1264–1266——This institution was founded in 1823; it once numbered 1,400 members, but is now reduced to 460, exclusive of students, 1267–1269——The library contains about 4,000 volumes, which are allowed to be circulated; they are rather of a light character; class of works in the most demand, 1270–1280. 1329–1331. 1346, 1347——Remarks to the effect that a distribution of the Parliamentary Papers to the London Mechanics' and similar institutions would be a great benefit to them and to the public, 1281–1291. 1348——There are but very few artisans in the London institutions; class of persons comprised in the London Mechanics' Institute, 1292–1300.

The working classes do not subscribe to this institution, because of the abstruse nature of the lectures, and of the inefficiency of the library for practical mechanical purposes, 1294. 1301–1303. 1313–1318. 1322–1343——The subscription to the London Mechanics' Institution is 24 *s.* per annum; this is lower than the terms of subscription to any other metropolitan institution; the rental of the building is 220 *l.* per annum, 1298. 1319–1321. 1344, 1345——The expenditure of the institution exceeds its receipts; the same remark applies to all other similar institutions in London, 1304–1312.

Vardon, Mr. The Printing Committee have been of considerable service with respect to printing abstracts of returns instead of the returns *in extenso*; these abstracts are undertaken by Mr. Vardon, who in one Session effected thereby a saving of 10,000 *l. Hume* 1843, 1844.

Votes. Reference to the Report of a Committee obtained by witness, in 1835, on the subject of Parliamentary Papers, showing the convenience that resulted from an experiment, in 1828, with respect to the sale of the Votes, *Hume* 1842.

W.

Warren, Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has had considerable experience, as one of the working class, in the operation of mechanics' institutes throughout the country 1437–1442——These institutions are but of little value to the working classes, who are not generally supporters of them; the middle classes, however, derive considerable advantages from mechanics' institutions, 1443–1451——The lectures given are not suited to the wants of mechanics, and are the more attractive as they are the less practical; the previous non-education of the working classes prevents their properly appreciating practical lectures, 1452–1456——Remarks as to certain lectures given by witness in different places to the working classes; he has about two tons of machinery to illustrate the practical application of his lectures, 1457–1463——Generally speaking, mechanics' institutions are little more than lending libraries, 1463, 1464.

A judicious selection of Parliamentary Papers would increase the utility of mechanics' institutions, and would, after a time, be very beneficial to the working classes, 1464–1468. 1523——The papers should at all times be accessible to the public, 1469–1479——Neither a Committee of the House nor the institutions themselves are suitable bodies to make the requisite selection, 1480–1484——The grant of papers should not be limited by reference to the number of members in each institution, but should be so distributed that every person might have an opportunity of profiting by their perusal, 1485–1488——The institutions should contribute towards the expense of the carriage of the papers, and are mostly in a fit condition to do so, 1489–1495. 1498——A prompt issue of the papers after publication is very desirable, 1496, 1497.

Mechanics' institutions generally are increasing in point of number and of members, as regards the middle class of society, but sufficient efforts are not made to render them useful to the working classes, 1499–1507——Opinion that amateur lectures are not beneficial to mechanics' institutions, inasmuch as they lead the mind away from matters of a practical and more important nature, 1508–1512——The experience of witness leads him to believe that the working classes might be induced to take a beneficial interest in matters of a most practical nature; details of this experience, showing how witness, though still a working man, became educated, and how by means of lectures, &c., in Manchester and elsewhere, he has since conferred benefits of a practical nature on his fellow-men, 1512–1518. 1542–1549.

Voluntary efforts alone are not sufficient for the purpose of leading the minds of the working classes to a proper appreciation of the value of education, 1519–1523——Good effects might be produced equally well by institutions employing paid persons for educational purposes among the lower classes, 1519–1523——There is almost an entire want of education amongst the lower classes; this ignorance is mainly attributable to the pernicious effects of intemperance, 1524–1526. 1549–1553——Unless mechanics' institutions come into closer communication with the lower classes, Parliamentary Papers will not be of much use to them, 1527–1530——Instead of circulating the papers in their present form, it would be very desirable to give the pith of the evidence in the Reports of the Committee, and to circulate the latter only, 1528. 1531–1541.

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Warrington Free Library. Reference to the free library at Warrington, as having been established under Mr. Ewart's Libraries Act, *Edwards* 823-826——The Warrington Free Library is very useful, but its means of support are very limited, *ib.* 927.

Witnesses examined before this Committee. Observations of the Committee with respect to the peculiar opportunities of the witnesses examined by them for forming a sound opinion on the subject of a distribution of the Parliamentary Papers, *Rep.* iii-v.

Working Classes. The experience of witness leads him to believe that the working classes might be induced to take a beneficial interest in matters of a most practical nature; details of this experience, showing how witness, though still a working man, became educated, and how by means of lectures, &c., in Manchester and elsewhere, he has since conferred benefits of a practical nature on his fellow-men, *Warren* 1512-1518. 1542-1549——Voluntary efforts alone are not sufficient for the purpose of leading the minds of the working classes to a proper appreciation of the value of education, *ib.* 1519-1523——Good effects might be produced equally well by institutions employing paid persons for educational purposes among the lower classes, *ib.* 1519-1523——There is almost an entire want of education amongst the lower classes; this ignorance is mainly attributable to the pernicious effects of intemperance, *ib.* 1524-1526. 1549-1553.

Working Man's Educational Union. Part taken by witness in the formation of the Working Man's Educational Union; the chief object of this institution is to provide diagrams for lecturers, whereby they may the more readily impart instruction in their lectures, *Abbatt* 1407-1421.

Y.

Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes. The Yorkshire Union of Mechanics' Institutes, of which witness is president, includes 123 institutes and from 19,000 to 20,000 members; it has been in existence for fifteen years, and began with thirteen institutes, *Baines* 124-126——Reference to the proceedings at the annual meetings of the Yorkshire Union; at a meeting on the 2d June 1852 a resolution was unanimously passed, that a petition be presented to The House on the subject of the distribution of Parliamentary Papers amongst mechanics' institutes, *ib.* 127-130. 154-157.

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